

Minutes of The Summit Charter School, Inc.

Board of Trustees

October 4, 2018

Report by: Collins Zimmer, Secretary

Voting Members Attending: Edward Cole (Chair); Ann Betty (Vice Chair); Tammy Bryson (Treasurer); Collins Zimmer (Secretary); Katie Bumgarner, Linda Quick, Sarah Chapin, Robin Tanner

Voting Members Absent: Travis Boswell, David Billingsly

Non-Voting Members Attending: Josh Crawford (Foundation Board Chair); Billy Leonard (Director); Lauren Bennett (Upper School Principal); Marie Starkings (Business Manager); Joe Arrowood (Faculty Board Member); Kate Schelbe (Faculty Board Member)

Visitors: Rob Hunter (Foundation Board Member); Barbie Harper (attended open comment portion)

Open Period/Public Comment: Barbie Harper read aloud her letter on the topic of recess and its importance to K-8 students, specifically Middle Schoolers. This letter will be attached to the Minutes and posted online.

The October 4, 2018 meeting of The Summit Charter School, Inc. Board of Trustees was called to order shortly after 5 p.m. with Edward Cole, Chair, presiding.

All attending recited the Summit Pledge.

Approval of Minutes: Ann Betty moved that the Minutes from the September 10, 2018 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Katie Bumgarner and was approved unanimously.

Tammy Bryson motioned that Scott Westendorf be elected as the replacement Board member to complete the term held by Will Simms, who resigned prior to the school year. The motion was seconded by Sarah Chapin and was approved unanimously.

Director's Report: Billy Leonard presented his Director's Report, a copy of which was distributed at the meeting. He addressed current student enrollment (235) and shared an update on joining the Teton Science School (TSS) Network. Representatives from TSS will conduct a two-day training session— Parents & Board members will be trained on February 13th followed by a Faculty-training day on February 14th. This training precedes Summit's winter break 4-day holiday: February 15th-18th. Leonard also shared the administration's efforts to map out weekly, monthly and yearly actions/goals and highlighted the weekly (department-head) leadership meeting now held on Tuesdays for added continuity.

Ann Betty motioned to join the Teton Science School place network. The motion was seconded by Katie Bumgarner and was approved unanimously.

Ann Betty motioned to approve the additional expense of \$38,750 for EC-related funding. Tammy Bryson seconded the budget amendment and the Board approved unanimously.

Ann Betty motioned to authorize Billy Leonard to purchase a bus and coordinate further with the Foundation Board. The motion was seconded by Tammy Bryson and was approved unanimously.

Tammy Bryson motioned to approve the calendar change designating February 14th as a faculty workday (for TSS training). The motion was seconded by Katie Bumgarner and approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- Facilities: An SRO contract is in the works.
- Finance: Ongoing work is still being performed on the budget.
- Strategic Planning: Sarah Chapin shared a detailed presentation based on the strategic planning session held September 26th.
- Trustee: There are open positions available on the Board.

Other Committee/Sister Organization Reports:

- Foundation/Fundraising: Fundraising efforts, including the Parent Fund, are about to commence. Fundraising sub-committees will be comprised of Board members and parents.
- Construction: Gym construction is set to be completed by early December. The High School buildings are soon to follow.
- Campus Culture: There will be a meeting scheduled in the next month.
- SFA: SummitFest was a success. The Middle school will conduct a winter jacket drive for hurricane victims in New Bern, NC.

Faculty appreciation breakfast dates were assigned to members.

Billy Leonard will report back to the Board after assessing recess in Middle School, as requested by Barbie Harper.

Linda Quick motioned to adjourn the meeting, Katie Bumgarner seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Letter from Barbie Harper

My name is Barbie Harper. My son is an 8th Grader, and he transitioned to Summit during 3rd Grade. I thank the Board for the opportunity to speak about an issue today: the importance of recess and why Summit students deserve more.

First of all, I'd like to share an excerpt from the Healthy Active Children Policy with you from the NC State Board of Education's (SBOE) Policy Manual.

The SBOE recommends schools not meeting that goal to provide all K-8 children an opportunity to benefit from a minimum of 30 minutes daily of moderate to vigorous physical activity/recess.

Personally, I have followed the evolution of this particular Board policy for over 6 years. In earlier versions of this policy, the State actually recommended 30 minutes of physical activity (i.e. unstructured play or recess) in addition to P.E. Why? Experts understand the value of unstructured recess in a child's life because recess increases focus, improves memory, reduces stress, improves general well-being, reduces disruptive classroom behavior, and further develops social and emotional skills, etc.

Summit does not meet the State's minimum PE recommendation, and this year in particular, it is significantly failing to provide middle school students with adequate recess time. Currently, Summit allocates 45 minutes for middle school students to eat lunch, perform after-lunch duties, walk to their recess destination and then play.

I have spoken and written to various Summit personnel, starting with Dr. Talmadge and Lauren Bennett, about recess concerns, such as recess being withheld as punishment, which is prohibited. But now, I ask you to consider whether Summit provides sufficient time for recess.

I have requested hyperlinks to articles be forwarded to you substantiating how recess affects children, why children need recess, why play doesn't end with childhood, how school performance deteriorates during the course of the day, and why adults need recess.

Additionally, please consider reading the American Academy of Pediatrics' Policy Abstract entitled, *The Crucial Role of Recess in School*.

The link to articles I've asked to be forwarded to you even include how recess improves test scores, which seems to be the driving objective for most schools, including Summit.

According to a publication by the CDC extolling the benefits of recess, it stated:

Recess that is well organized will include, for example, a written school recess plan, coordinated schedules and transition times, and professional development for school staff and volunteers. When implemented properly, recess will not only help students be more physically active, but may improve their behavior and attention level in class. It can also reduce bullying and exclusionary behavior among students. By helping students feel safe and more engaged in the classroom, recess also contributes to higher levels of school connectedness. This higher level of connectedness creates a positive school climate, which affects every aspect of school, including attendance, engagement, and academic achievement.

In closing, I ask you to read the articles, consider the researched facts about recess and ask whether Summit currently values recess as necessary for students and teachers alike. Personally, I trust the experts and think **Summit students and teachers deserve more.**

(I have provided a copy of my comments to the Board secretary and have requested that these comments be included in their entirety with the minutes of this board meeting.) Thank you.

Children Learn Through Play

(The Atlantic)

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/09/learning-through-play/499703/>

Why Kids Need Recess

(NPR)

<http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/Children-s-Health-Wellness/why-kids-need-recess.html>

The Value of Play

(US Play Coalition)

https://usplaycoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/13.11.5_Recess_final_online.pdf

Why Recess Doesn't End in Childhood

(NPR)

<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2014/08/06/336360521/play-doesnt-end-with-childhood-why-adults-need-recess-too>

Crucial Role of Recess in School

(AAP)

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/131/1/183.full.pdf>

Recess Defined

(CDC)

https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/physicalactivity/pdf/2016_12_16_schoolrecessstrategies_508.pdf

Recess Improves Student Performance

(Science Nordic)

<http://sciencenordic.com/recess-improves-student-performance>

(Learning Liftoff)

<https://www.learningliftoff.com/why-more-recess-leads-to-better-school-performance/>