

**Face to Face Academy**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**January 24, 2022**

Attendance included Academy School Board Members Bryan Bakke, Mike Nord, Paul Roark, John Vasecka, Willie Suttle, Rachel Blawat, and Margo Thomas. Also present for the meeting were Darius Husain (*Academy Director,)* and Jennifer Plum (*Assistant to the Board Secretary.*)***This Board Meeting was conducted both on campus and via Zoom so that all Members could attend*.**

**1) Review of Agenda and Conflict of Interest Regarding Agenda Items**

No conflicts noted.

**2) Review of Board Minutes December 13, 2021**

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the December 13, 2021 School Board Minutes were accepted as submitted.**

**3) Finance Report, Credit Card, Checks, and Wire Statements**

1. Financial Statements were received through December for the school year 2021/22 and shared for the Board to review. This document reflects the recent budget revision.
2. Revenue is at 44% received.
3. Expenditures are 46% spent.
4. The school year is 50% complete.
5. The budget reflects an ADM of 87 students. The state is currently paying based on an ADM of 88.
6. Current enrollment is closer to 85 students. June is projecting a large graduating class. The monthly meeting is not being held due to Covid. Discussion about when to re-engage the monthly meeting after the Omicron variant.
7. Reconciled cash balance is indicated on the financial document at $750,100.
8. Current total state holdback is noted at $79,847 which is 10%.
9. Discussion of the donations and the recent $7K that was given for the music program.
10. Discussion of ESSER funds and how it is categorized and coded on the financial statements.
11. Checks and wires were shown to the Board members for review.
* Staff were reimbursed for any needed Covid tests before the state was able to provide test kits.
* Discussion about the use of Uber for one family. This is a transportation service that was written into a student’s I.E.P that was inherited from another district.

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the financial statements were accepted as submitted.**

**4) Equity Access Learning Model (EALM) & Online Provider Application Review & Update**

1. Handout circulated for Board members to review.
2. Review of the history and development of the online programming offered for Academy students.
3. Program offers four different tiers of access to the online and/or blended instruction.
4. Students can move between tiers and can easily increase in-person instruction at any point.
5. All students, regardless of tier level, have an Advisor and also receive a phone call from a social worker when they don’t attend class either in-person or online.
6. The Minnesota Department of Education’s preliminary response to the Academy’s recent application to continue the online programming has been positive and supportive.
7. Discussion about the possibility of the Academy sharing its practices with other schools, like a “pilot program” for other schools to adopt.
8. Discussion of the flexibility of the program while navigating Covid for any student or staff exposed or when a student needs a different access point to education whether long-term or temporarily.
9. Board Members support the online component of the Academy’s programming as an additional innovative tool to serve the diverse needs of its student population now and in a post-Covid future.

**5) COVID-19 Update: Case Counts, Testing, and Mitigation Strategies during Omicron Surge**

1. Discussion of the Memo regarding recommendations based on the updated and modified Covid mitigation strategies, guidances, and recommendations from MDE, MDH, CDC, and a sample school.
2. Academy staff have had the opportunity to discuss and approve the Memo’s recommendations.
3. Discussion about PTO policy for staff members during Covid. Current Board policy allows up to two weeks for any staff in quarantine, caring for a child due to Covid, or testing positive without having to access PTO. Staff members can participate in some parts of the school day remotely when possible.
4. Today’s recommendations can easily be revisited at any Board member to reflect evolution of Covid’s Omicron, or any other future variant.
5. Discussion of terminology of what could be considered “fully vaccinated” and what is considered “ability to isolate at home” in comparison to “inability to isolate at home” and how these situations relate to a 5 or 10 day quarantine period.
6. Communication remains very active between families and the school when students are exposed, experiencing any symptoms, or testing positive.
7. Because of students masking and following mitigation strategies along with vaccination status, community spread has not happened. There has been only one staff member testing positive for Covid and the Academy moved to only one day of distance learning for all students in SY22 out of an abundance of caution.
8. Students received a brief education on Omnicron and the guidance on upgrading masks to limit any community spread.

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the recommendations\* in regard to Covid as presented by the Administration were accepted as submitted.**

*\*Summary of Updated Recommendations: There are 3 major changes to previous Quarantine and Vaccination guidance:*

1. *Allows for schools to reduce the number of Quarantine days from 10 Days to 5 Days for Confirmed Positive COVID cases if the individual is asymptomatic/no longer has symptoms. There are specific stipulations the individual would have to follow to qualify for this shortened period including mask wearing.*
2. *Redefines “fully vaccinated” individuals 18 or older as those who have completed their full series of eligible shots including boosters. Only fully vaccinated individuals under this designation would be exempt from quarantining if they came in close contact. Currently this policy applies to any individual that has received two shots of Modern/Phiser or 1 shot of Johnson & Johnoson.*
3. *Allows for schools to reduce the number of Quarantine days for those who come in “Close Contact” with a Confirmed Positive COVID Cases from 14 days (or 7 to 10 days for “test to get back in”) to 5 days if the individual is asymptomatic. There are specific stipulations the individual would have to follow to qualify for this shortened period including mask wearing.*

**6) Academy Program Report**

1. Both instructional and daily attendance has improved despite the cold weather and Omicron.
2. Discussion about recent donation to the music class. Some of the funds will be used to purchase recording equipment.
3. Discussion about the recent development of the Face to Face Academy Podcast to encourage creative expression and community development.
4. There is another break starting on February 4th.
5. Discussion about the MCA III testing season rebooting.
6. The next Board meeting will be held on February 28th.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Bakke

Board Secretary