

Notes - board meeting 5/21/16

Call to order 9:16 AM

Leslie Jensen Link

Nada Diab

Kristina Leidner

Proxy: Calvin Stamps, Crystal Canaday

1. Executive Director's report - Ms. Campbell to discuss single/mixed gender in 4th/5th, and extending school day (elementary to 3:25).
 - Extending schedule will impact the schedule in the following way - early elementary will have Arabic daily for 30 minutes; power hour daily for TAG, remediation, academic enrichment; recess increased from 15 minutes to 30 minutes as well as rest period for k and 1; homework will be eliminated in K-2; restriction of homework in 3-8 (guidelines to be determined). Teachers in favor for the purposes of remediation with students who need it. Action: **Vote passed on extending schedule (proxy from Calvin and Crystal).**
 - Shifting 4th & 5th from single gender to mixed gender - based on concerns that were raised throughout the year. Single gender puts extra stresses on the systems (special services, etc). Mixed gender would allow us to extend resources. Discussed at the town hall - nearly everyone there were in favor of shifting to co-ed. Crew time will remain single gendered. Action: **Vote passed on moving to mixed gender in 4th & 5th (proxy from Calvin and Crystal).**
 - Discussed 3rd grade moving from semi-departmentalized to self-contained classrooms.
 - Also summer work - it will be optional, but those who do it will get an ice cream party reward or similar.

2. Action: Bond resolution amendment - **approved** (Kristina will sign this week).

3. Ehab - Cherisse, Kristina and Ehab attended a GCSA session around ed reform commission, helping with advocacy around a resolution that the governor is proposing related to ed reform, and how charter schools are funded, how they have access to unused buildings, whether they are considered for SPLOST. Helps us determine how we're going to advocate around this - inviting elected officials to the school, informing parents about the resolution so that they can advocate. The good news is that the elected officials in this area are pretty pro-charter; however it doesn't hurt us to influence people in south county. This has profound implications for Amana - getting facilities funding from a capital outlay fund could be a game changer for us.

4. Ehab - we're getting a lot interest from outside parties around our EL and Expeditionary STEM - many visits to see what we're doing.

5. Procurement vote postponed.

6. Leslie: HS updates Laura Stowell left FCS, new person (Melissa Ginsberg) is also leaving. We're currently without a charter liaison. Working with Cliff Jones to try and get charter amendment approved. Alan Mueller has met with Cherisse and Ehab to highlight the areas that need to be amended. We'll plan to work on that this week. We will submit this to the FCS Board this summer or early fall.

7. Financials - approved

8. Board Elections - we have received nominations and are in the process of interviewing them.

9. Community feedback

George - focus on communication: make sure we're communicating everything in all languages. Make sure that we're giving people plenty of time to react. Make sure we have translation services available on the website.

Sheila - schedule change might impact re-enrollment. Her impression of the town hall was that it wasn't well received. Can we add language when we communicate the change that says "if there's a concern about your child and how this change will impact them, please contact."

Adjourned - 11:16 AM