



Faith Academy Charter School Minutes

SPECIAL SESSION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

9:00 AM

LOCATION OF MEETING: [IN-PERSON] BOARD ROOM - Conference Room

School Mission: Faith Academy Charter School will prepare a diverse student body for college and career through Project Based Learning, life skills courses, and College and Technical Education pathways. Through this challenging and supportive learning environment, students address real-world problems to become successful citizens and community leaders in a rapidly changing world.

Members Present: George Wilhelm, Chairman, Gene Miller, Vice Chairman, Tim Williams, Secretary, Liz Morrow, Treasurer, Janna Griggs, Chris Sease and Nick Nefko

Members Absent: None

FACS Administration: Alison Moore, Head Administrator & Principal K-6, Chad Mitchell, High School Principal 7-9, Alexandra Shadroui, Assistant Principal and Amy Wise, Director of Testing and Accountability

CSP: Cory Draughon, CEO and Tara Beaver, FACS Project Manager

Minutes

Open Session

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman George Wilhelm at 9:00 am
2. Reading of Mission Statement: George Wilhelm
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Tim Williams
4. Announcements and Acknowledgements - FACS Ornaments from the Booster Club
5. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of December 15, 2023 Agenda

b. Approval of November 20, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes (Open Session)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda: Gene Miller

Seconded: Chris Sease

Discussion: None

Motion Status: Approved Unanimously

6. Public Comment/Citizen Input - [Link to Full Policy](#)
No Public Comment

Public comment is a time for the community to provide feedback to the Board of Directors. For in-person meetings attendees must sign up at the start of the meeting in order to give public comment. Each community member is limited to 3 minutes of comment,



with a total time allotted to public comment of up to 30 minutes. During remote meetings, attendees may add their public comments to the chat feature which will be sent directly to the Board of Directors. Board members will then share the comments with the meeting attendees for up to 10 minutes.

Public comment is also a time for the Board of Directors to listen to the feedback of the community. Board members can not respond to public comments during the meeting. However, the Board recognizes that each stakeholder is a vital part of our community and will take comments into consideration when making decisions, planning, providing feedback to administration, and completing committee work.

BOARD GUIDELINES DURING THE 30 MIN. PUBLIC COMMENT:

*The designated Board Moderator of comments will end a comment at 3 minutes, or recommend to the chair that they move on from public comment after 30 minutes of total comment. *Board members are to listen and not respond or engage in conversation during the 30 minutes of the comments portion of the Board Meeting. They are only to thank the community for the feedback.

*During the meeting or committee follow up, board members can reference comments made by the community, if appropriate in board discussion about agenda items.

*New agenda items should not be added to the current meeting due to public comment. They should be added to board committee agendas or future board meeting agendas.

1. 7. CSP Financial Report:

a. USDA Update

Cory Draughon reported that he and Mike Kirby had met with USDA on Dec 12, 2023 concerning our loan and its terms. He stated that the meeting went well and that the due diligence items requested by USDA have been provided. There are some challenges or risk factors to overcome:

- **Less than 5 years**
- **ADA compliance**
- **Environmental**

There will be a site visit with Board Representatives in January 2024.

Chairman Wilhelm stressed that we had no time to waste. Our loan needed to be secured in order to begin the Gym/Multi purpose room construction and the renovation of the Faith School property for the high school to begin in August of 2024.

Cory and George will contact Steve Hubrich to get the following questions/concern answered:

- 1. Contact Steve Hubrich about next project renovations, any funding capacity through Faith LLC.**
- 2. Confirm with Steve the final square footage and acreage numbers on the final facility costs document**
- 3. Discussion with Michael Kirby with West Towne Bank to identify a path to traditional loan for older facility**
- 4. Follow up with Craig Pierce regarding potential funding from County Commissioners (Gene Miller)**

b. **Estimated Final Facility Costs (made a part of these minutes)**

Cory Draughon reported on Faith Charter LLC Overall Budget/Estimated Final Costs worksheet

Project Total Budget \$22,448,536.58

Estimated Final Costs \$20,908,656.35

\$ 1,539,880.23 under budget

Rent commencement is 30 days after tenant takes possession.

Monthly Rent (9.25%) \$161,170.89

c. **Non-Scale Salary Increase (2%)**

Clarification from November meeting: Increase intended for all instructional Staff. Staff has been paid on December 15th and will get the second check at the end of the month.

8. HS Feedback and Planning. Finding our Niche and focus

☐ School Focus Options

- a. Focus
- b. Guidebook
- c. Accreditation
- d. Facility Renovation/Budget

Chad Mitchell, High School Principal, led the Board through the above Powerpoint presentation that he created to help everyone create a path to answer the question, "What do we want to be when we grow up?"

He presented a portrait of Our School and Students:

Our Strengths - Personality, strong community and staff, High number of Lottery registrations, financial restraint.

Our Weaknesses - Our Offerings, small administration on HS level, old facility, finding staff for specialized programs, established mindsets of applying families.

Our Opportunities - Blank Slate, We can decide what we want to be when we grow up, utilize reputation for teacher recruitment, poised for student growth, wide variety of student interests.

Our Threats - Maintenance of enrollment and projections for K-12, fewer dollars per students, strong competition from nearby charter schools and early college program, keeping up with surrounding local systems pay plans.

Chad prepared a Word Cloud from staff, students and board survey, showing how each group reacted their individual thoughts about Faith Academy Charter School.

Staff: Students, growing, learning, high

Students: More, classes, foreign language, football

Board: Kind, new, caring, college, teachers, best education, kids

The Board discussed the following questions:

- Are we focused on our Missions? Would an outside observer think that we are?
- Are we a true K-12 school or will we be?
- We say that we are a Project Based Learning School? Are we? Are all teachers using the method? Is it working?
- Do we want a change?
- IB World School?
- Early College?
- Magnet School - STEAM, STREAM?

All these questions were discussed at length. It was the consensus of the Board and Administration that we were following our Mission and that we would continue a college and careers pathway: **AP Academy and CTE Academy.**

9. Graduation Requirements

- a. Do we want greater than the 22 required by the state?
- b. Do we want to offer the 3-year graduation option?

These issues were discussed. It was determined that it would be difficult for us to achieve these graduation requirements at this time.

10. Transportation Issues

Having reviewed Mrs. Shadrui's transportation analysis presented at the November meeting and following much discussion the Board developed the following bus plan for next year:

Plan - 2 buses with 2 stops and a carpool plan to be developed by administration with a communication plan.

11. Number of Students to accept per grade level

Administration will review each grade level for any changes and the possibility of accepting 100 students instead of 80 for kindergarten.

- a. **Lottery Procedure** - FACS will be required to sign off on the authenticity of the Lottery following the procedure.

12. Policy Review

- a. **Bullying Policy - Parents**

Tabled

13. Committee Reports

- a. **Facilities Committee**

- i. **CO** - Elevator needs state inspection- The State will inspect the elevator on Tuesday Dec 18, 2023, following, Rowan County will be contacted to approve the Certificate of Occupancy for the school
- ii. Manley Smith has offered to give an estimate for snow and ice removal. George Wilhelm will contact Manley for an estimate.

iii. Air-One Contract for HVAC units for service and maintenance on the HVAC units at the new school 420 N. Main Street:

The contract is three year agreement:

1/1/2024 - \$16,417.00

1/1/2025 - \$16,910.00

1/1/2026 - \$17,418.00

Billing Frequency is Quarterly

(The contract is made a part of these minutes)

Motion to Approve Contract: Chris Sease

Seconded: Nick Lefko

Discussion: Janna Griggs explained the procedure was much more than merely changing the filters.

Motion Status: Approved Unanimously

iv. **George Wilhelm reported that 2 dumpsters would be delivered for the school.**

b. Sports Committee - It was reported that Howard Torrence, AD, was doing a great job and that the Booster Club is under way with the refurbishment of the grandstand. All sports teams are doing great. It was asked if our scores were being sent into the Salisbury Post. There was discussion about all sports and the need and/ or want for each.

i. Fundraising - **The board asked administration to make sure all clubs and PTO understand the need for board approval of all fundraising.**

c. Finance Committee - No report

d. Capital Campaign Committee - Tim Williams reported that we have added \$5050.00 since our last meeting. **The total now is \$364,416,77.** Tim explained to the board that Miller Davis is underway with two letters for solicitation of capital campaign funding, 1) a letter to previous donors to ask for year end gifts and continuation of pledges and 2) a letter to many area residents asking for contributions and year end gifts. Tim explained that the only piece we were missing was an email list for parents and guardians. The board discussed the possibility of obtaining this list for Miller Davis to send monthly messages to parents regarding the capital campaign, to keep the campaign in the forefront of their thoughts. The board wanted to make sure that no parent or student information was ever used for anything other than this matter. Tim will speak to MD to make sure and report back to the board. Parents will be able to opt out of the messages.

e. Personnel Committee - Closed Session Matter

14.Board Member Transition

a. Terms ending June 2024: Nick, Janna, Tim

There was discussion around the matter of terms. The board will decide the three members going off the board and begin recruitment of three new members.

b. Identifying and Interviewing applicants for board member positions

Tabled to later meeting



Closed Session: Purpose of Closed Session Discussion Item #3: 143-318.11. Closed sessions. (a) Permitted Purposes. - It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required:

Closed Session is not always held, but if it is, members of the public shall drop from the call and can return for the open session vote/adjournment.

The Board will give their best estimate of the time needed for Closed Session, but all timing will be approximate.

Motion to go to Closed Session at 1:44 pm: Nick Lefko
Seconded: Janna Griggs
Discussion: None
Motion Status: Approved Unanimously

Final Board Items

- **Motions related to any items from closed session**

Open Session Resumed at 1:51 pm

Motion to Approve slate of employment candidates offered by administration in closed: Chris Sease
Seconded: Gene Miller
Discussion: None
Motion Status: Approved Unanimously

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 2:02 pm: Tim Williams
Seconded: Gene Miller
Discussion: None
Motion Status: Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Williams, Secretary

