



# Faith Academy Charter School Board Minutes

## REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023

7:00 PM

LOCATION OF MEETING: [IN-PERSON] BOARD/CONFERENCE ROOM-420 N Main St.

**Board Members Present:** George Wilhelm, Chairman, Gene Miller, Vice-Chairman, Tim Williams, Secretary, Liz Morrow, Treasurer, Chris Sease.

**Board Members Absent:** Janna Griggs and Nick Lefko

**FACS Administration:** Alison Moore, Head Administrator, Chad Mitchell, High School Principal (7-9), Alexandria Shadrui, Assistant Principal, Amy Wise, Director Testing and Accountability

**Charter Success Partners:** Zach Donahue, CFO CSP

**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.

## Minutes - November 20, 2023

### Open Session

1. Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm - Chairman George Wilhelm
2. Reading of Mission Statement - Chairman George Wilhelm
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Tim Williams, Secretary
4. Announcements and Acknowledgements - None
5. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of November 20, 2023 Agenda
  - b. Approval of October 23, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes (Open Session -  
Review: FACS Board Minutes 10.23.2023 .docx )

**Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda with two corrections made to the October 23, 2023 minutes:** Gene Miller

**Seconded:** Chris Sease

**Discussion:** Correction to October 23, 2023 minutes. "Pete Bogel misspelled, should be Pete Bogle and under finance - sentence corrected to .....to keep debt service low."

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

## 6. Public Comment/Citizen Input - [Link to Full Policy](#)

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.

## 7. Administrative Report

### a. [Admin Report](#)

Administration presented their report and is made a part of these minutes.

Highlights:

- Excellent Open House and Ribbon Cutting
- Car Rider Line moving smoothly
- Field trips have begun, along with fundraising for Atlanta trip
- Anne Strazzulla will return to the 5th grade to replace Alyssa Vincent.
- Custodian Steven Hopkins/Bus Driver will be leaving November 17th.
- 4th grade students will be singing at Frosty Fest under the direction of Mrs. Sharon Gunther. Booster/PTO selling funnel cakes
- Proposed extra custodian help
- School Culture and Climate - huge boost from the open house
- Testing complete in grades 3-9 (NC Check-Ins)

## b. Band for MS/HS for 2024-2025

Board made aware of the possibility of a FACS Band being formed

## 8. CSP Financial Report: (Zach Donahue, CFO)

### a. CSP Audit Review

Zach Donahue presented to Independent Audit Report for FACS prepared By Rebekah Barr, CPA.

- Page 5 - Clean Audit Report, No Findings
- Page 15 - Total Net Position, \$1,900,952.00
- Page 17 - Cash and cash equivalents 1.5 million
- Page 17 - Fund Balance - 1,5 million
- Page 33 - No difference in internal controls or non-compliance
- Page 38 - No corrective plans, no prior audits reviews/corrections.

**Motion to Approve the Audit as presented and made a part of these minutes with the addition of finances related to the new school and remodeling of the old school and changing Buncombe County to Rowan County RSS (page 23):** Liz Morrow

**Seconded:** Chris Sease

**Discussion:** None further

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

### b. October Financial Report

Mr. Donahue presented a favorable October financial budget report with a present surplus of \$322,349.92

### c. Finance Committee Notes

Notes are made a part of these minutes

- Recommendation for matching new State Salary Schedule
- Approximately \$80k budget impact
- Sustainable through - 4% per pupil increase in funding and \$30K increase in supplemental teacher funds
- Recommended Rollout of New Pay
  1. Nov Payroll - Current Salary
  2. Dec Payroll - Updated Salary
  3. 2nd Dec Payroll - Salary difference beginning of year - Nov.

Other Notes for Finance Committee

- Added funds to Teacher and Custodial Salary categories EOY Projections for open science position, 8 hr & 6 hr custodial positions
- Reduced ACCESS expense category EOY Projection to account for funds paid in Books & Supplies that will be reimbursed after ACCESS reimbursement.
- Net lunch expense trending toward \$90K contribution vs \$50K budgeted contribution
- Reached out to Michael Kirby for an update on USDA Loan

**Motion to approve the recommendation of the financial committee to update teachers salaries to match State adopted FY24 Scale with the proposed**

**schedule:** Chris Sease

**Seconded:** Gene Miller

**Discussion:** None

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

## 9. Paid Parental Leave Opt-In

### a. Recommendation to Opt-In

Following review of paid parental leave information and discussion,

Motion to approve the Opt-In Paid Parental Leave program proposed by the State of NC: Chris Sease

**Seconded:** Liz Morrow

**Discussion:** None

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

## 10. Lottery Policy Review

a. No recommended changes to policy; annual review prior to lottery opening, no action necessary unless changes.

*No action taken.*

### b. Transportation Data

Mrs. Shadroui, Assistant Principal, presented a powerpoint presentation pertaining to FACS transportation bus activity/population. Her presentation is made a part of these minutes.

- A map of the concentration of students across Rowan County
- Basic Data- 190 students on bus roster, 65 occasional AM and PM only
- Average AM Rider - 104
- Average PM Rider - 146
- All buses in the PM are at capacity
- Approximately 12-20 calls received in the past 3 weeks from parents requesting bus since new school opened.
- Car rider lines have dramatically decreased from 1 hour in the PM to a maximum of 35 minutes total time. Morning line has decreased from 45 minutes to less than 30 minutes each morning.
- Presented geographic data by zip code.
- Date by bus stop locations sorted by distance
  - Bus stop for 85 students within 5 miles of the school
  - Bus stop for 27 students within 7 miles of the school

Fiscal Data - maintenance, fuel, drivers, repairs, mics. Total/yr \$82,530.53. \$650/student per year.

Questions: What are the costs per student?

How much would it increase the car rider line?

Are there any possible implications on enrollment?

K-9 riding buses together, safety, solutions?

## 11. 24-25 School Calendar (Discussion)

Amy Wise presented a recommendation to begin work on FACS 23-24 calendar. She proposed a committee of board representatives, teachers, administrators and parents. The Board had a favorable response to the recommendation.

## 12. Set Date for Board Work Session

### a. HS Feedback/Planning

A Board/Administration retreat was planned for Friday, December 15 from 9-1 pm. Topics for discussion

1. HS Feedback and Planning. Finding our Niche and focus
2. Transportation issues
3. Number of Students to accept per grade level
4. CO, Loan completion

## 13. Committee Reports

### a. Facilities Committee

- George Wilhelm reported that the JC Ballpark agreement with the Faith Town Board has not been voted upon yet.
- Chad Mitchell asked if High Rock Volleyball Team could use the gym for practice? Board Approved and asked about our rental scheduling/cost for use of our facilities that the Sports committee was working on. It was stated that Nick Lefko had the information.

### b. Sports Committee

- The board has questions as to when the new playground equipment would be installed. The school is expecting the equipment in December?

### c. Finance Committee

- Nothing further for the Board

### d. Capital Campaign Committee

- Tim Williams reported that since last meeting the campaign has taken in \$3,652.00 for a total given to date of \$368,440.17. Gene Miller asked if we could meet with the County Commissioners for funding.

### e. Personnel Committee

- Recommendation for Closed Session

**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.

## **Personnel**

- Custodian
- Substitutes

Motion to go into Closed Session at 8:38 pm: Chris Sease

Seconded: Gene Miller

Discussion: None

Motion Status: Approved Unanimously

## **Final Board Items**

- Motions related to any items from closed session

Motion to approve the slate of candidates for hire for FACS: Liz

Seconded: Chris Sease

Discussion: None

Motion Status: Approved Unanimously

## **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn at 8:52 pm: Chris Sease

Seconded: Gene Miller

Discussion: None

Motion Status: Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Williams, Secretary