

**Faith Academy Charter School Board Minutes**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**MONDAY, September 18, 2023**

7:00 PM

LOCATION OF MEETING: [IN-PERSON] BOARD ROOM - Library, ZOOM Link for George Wilhelm

**Members Present:** George Wilhelm, Chairman (via Zoom), Gene Miller, Vice-Chairman, Liz Morrow, Treasurer, Tim Williams, Secretary, Janna Griggs, Nick Lefko and Chris Sease.

**Members Absent:**  None

**Charter Success Partners:** Cory Draughon, CEO, Tara Beaver, Project Manager CSP-FACS

**Head Administrator/K-6 Principal:** Alison Moore

**High School Director/7-9 Principal:** Chad Mitchell

**Testing/Accountability:** Amy Wise

**West Towne Bank:**  Michael Kirby

**School Mission: Gene Miller -** 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.

**Agenda**

**Open Session**

**1. Meeting called to order (Gene Miller Conducting) Meeting called to order 7:01 pm**

**2. Reading of Mission Statement - Gene Miller, Vice Chairman**

**3. Pledge of Allegiance - led by Gene Miller**

**4. Announcements and Acknowledgements - None**

**5. Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of September 18, 2023 Agenda (Board Member Nick Lefko requested Temperature Check Procedures for the school be discussed)**

**b. Approval of August, 21, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes (Open Session -**

**FACS Board Minutes-August, 21 2023)**

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of Temp Check Procedure discussion:**  Chris Sease

**Seconded:** Nick Lefko

**Discussion:** None

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

**6. Public Comment/Citizen Input - Link to Full Policy None for September Meeting**

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. West Towne Bank Proposal & Presentation (Michael Kirby)**

Cory Draughon introduced Michael Kirby with West Towne Bank. Michael explained the Term Sheets for three different loans for financing our construction projects. The term sheets are highlighted and made a part of these minutes. The structure of the loan will be a Direct Loan and two Guaranteed loans. The loan for the new construction will be a combination of a direct loan and a guaranteed loan. The direct load will be for $20 million from USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan Program and the guaranteed loan for $3,500,000 from USDA Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program. There will be a separate guaranteed loan for the GYM project for $3,300,000 providing financial flexibility. The guaranteed loans require 3rd party reports that need to be done quickly. They require a feasibility study, an environmental report and an appraisal that cannot exceed the loan amount of $26,500,000 and an annual audit. Review and approval takes some time, but North Carolina has a fast turnaround. Rates and Terms on $20 million are for 35-40 years with a fixed rate of 3.625 that changes quarterly, most likely to be 4%. There is a penalty for prepayment on the 3.5 and 3.3 million, but not on the $20 million loan

**a. Term Sheet - Direct**

**b. Term Sheet - Guaranteed**

**c. Term Sheet - Guaranteed - Gym**

**Motion to Authorize our treasurer to sign the engagement letters for each loan and to negotiate terms up to the presented terms of the engagement letters: George Wilhelm**

**Seconded: Nick Lefko**

**Discussion: None**

**Motion Status: Approved Unanimously**

**8. Administrative Report**

**a. Admin Report**

Mrs. Moore and Mr. Mitchell reported: Highlights include:

* School has been in session for 5 weeks
* BOY assessments have begun or are completed
* Test results have been released to Salisbury Post, our website and to parents
* Silent car rider line has been implemented in all areas. Down to 2–25 minutes daily.
* Currently we have 783 students enrolled
* Lock down drilled held on 9/5 and fire drill will be held on 9/19
* We have met and determined our initial car rider line for the new school. It may change as needed after the building opens
* Plan for the move to the new facility are underway. There will be a teacher’s conference on October 13. Teachers can begin moving on the 14-16. Professional movers will begin on 17th and work through to the 20th. School resumes on the 23rd.
* Theater production, “The Redemption of Gertie Green” 9/21 and 22 7pm in the auditorium.
* Boosters fundraiser at the fairground, parking cars - two nights- Tuesday and Saturday. Two shifts each night 4-6:30 pm and 6:30-9 pm.
* Held PTO interest meeting. Mr. Fowler met with Parents, Flag squad up and running, Planning a Community after opening the new facility.

The board addressed an issue of using temporal temperature scanners. These scanners were used during Covid and have proven to not be as accurate as the digital probe and cover variety. It was decided that Administration would get a probe style for day to day use by the nurse.

**b. Updated Calendar** Made a part of these minutes to include changes due to the move

**c. Charter Updates Discussion** - (AIG Program, HS Options, Differentiating HS) Mrs. Moore/Mr. Mitchell reported. Mrs Moore reported that the AIG Program was being implemented and parents have been sent letters regarding their students' performance. Mr. Mitchell requested several things to differentiate the Upper Grades, 1) new look for the high school Patriot mascot (not so cartoon as the lower grades) 2) proposed a contest for the look of the mascot and the formation of a new fight songs. By consensus, the board agreed with the contests and 3) consider changing from project based learning to Early College format without removal of career ready initiatives and to include an instructional baccalaureate program. These changes would give our high school a much needed niche for enticing students to come to our program. These changes would need to be approved by the State before implemented.

**d. Accountability Reports** Amy Wise reported that to make up the instructional time lost due to the opening of the new school that we would be adding 2 days to the end of the school year and would be adding 10 minutes to each day. School will begin at 7:55 am and end at 3:05 pm each day, Tuesday through Friday. Mondays will begin at 7:55 am and end at 1:05 pm

**Motion to amend the school calendar to make provisions for moving to the new facility:**  Liz Morrow

**Seconded:**  Janna Griggs

**Discussion:**  None

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

Amy Wise reported on the 2022-2023 Test Scores. Her report is made a part of these minutes.

**9. CSP Financial Report: (2023.08)**

Cory Draughon Reported that our financial situation remains strong. We are not getting our funds from RSS on a timely basis. The Finance Team will meet with Carol Herndon with RSS on Tuesday September 26th at 9:30 am to resolve this matter. The finance report is made a part of these minutes.

**10. Review and Approval of SB49 Policies**

The Board reviewed the Parent’s Bill of Rights and Compliance Policies NCGS 115C-76.20(b)(3**)**

**Motion to Approve the Parent’s Bill of Rights and Compliance Policies:**  Janna Griggs

**Seconded:** Chris Sease

**Discussion:** There could be possible amendments to come. Cory Draughon stated that we have to comply with the Parent’s Bill of Rights, but we could not be told how to run the school.

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

**11. Review and Approval of non Title-IX Policies**

**Motion to Approve “Non Title-IX Policies” Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Process:** Gene Miller

**Seconded:**  Janna Griggs

**Discussion:**  Possible amendments to follow. George Wilhelm asked about including Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Process for Adults. Cory will look into this.

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

**12. Committee Reports**

**a. Facilities Committee**

**i. Update on expected delivery -** George reported that we are waiting on Spectrum, paving and the elevator.

**ii. Moving Plans -** admin team update - Alison/Chad reported that the teachers will have a conference on Oct 13 and will be able to move in on the 14-16 and profession movers will move 17-20.

School resumes on Monday October 23rd.

**iii. Committee to set meeting with Hubrich to review updates to existing building iv. -** George reported that the Facilities Committee will meet with Mr. Hubrich on October 25th at 11 am at the old property

**Traffic Pattern Update -** The Administration Team. George Wilhelm and Tim Williams met to discuss the car rider traffic plan. Traffic will enter from Main Street North and South onto Patriot Path, double stacked all the way to the edge of the north back side of the school. Cars will continue double stacked for now allowing 12 cars to unload at a time behind the school and then proceed to the exits. Those needing to exit left onto Main Street will exit via Gardner St and then to the left and around the old school to Gantt, Miller, Battle and Quarry to dilute traffic. Those needing to exit to the right onto Main Street will exit onto Main and turn right. There will be no left turn. There was discussion about “Walkers”. Administration and Board agreed that it was too dangerous to allow walkers.

[George Wilhelm](mailto:gwilhelm@faithacademync.org) reported that the Town Board had been sent a formal letter requesting the JC Ballpark for FACS. He reported that he will be meeting with the JC about the parking lot.

**b. Sports Committee -** Report coming from Howard Torrence

**c. Finance Committee -**  Nothing further

**d. Capital Campaign Committee -** Tim Williams reported that currently we have collected $347,029.17. He reported that he had been in touch with Miller Davis. They are working on the new format for the website. Board members were shown the new format. Tim will meet with MD soon.

**e. Personnel Committee** - Recommendations will be made in Closed Session

**Closed Session: Purpose of closed session 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/appointment.**

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

**Personnel**

**Employee Recommendations (EC, TA, Subs)**

**Motion to go to Closed Session at 9:00 pm:**  Chris Sease

**Seconded:**  Nick Lefko

**Discussion:**  None

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

**Final Board Items**

**Motions related to any items from closed sessions**

**Motion to Approve new hire candidates presented by Mrs. Moore and Mr. Mitchell in closed session:**

Liz Morrow

**Seconded:** Nick Lefko

**Discussion:** None

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

**Motion to Adjourn at 9:08 pm:** George Wilhelm

**Seconded:** Liz Morrow

**Discussion:** None

**Motion Status:** Approved Unanimously

***Next Meeting moved to Oct 23, 2023at 7:00pm at the New Facility***

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Tim Williams, Secretary**