

Minutes of the Summit Charter School, Inc.

Board of Trustees

December 14, 2021

Report by: Erika Mason

Voting Members Attending: Betsy Helms (Chair), Boris Krueger (Vice Chair), David Billingsley (Treasurer), Erika Mason (Secretary), Mark Letson, and Kristina Newsom

Voting Members Absent: Josh Crawford (Foundation Board Chair), Tim Boeve, Ann Betty, Elisabeth Hoffman, Collins Zimmer, and Jason Chick

Non-Voting Members Attending: Kurt Pusch (Head of School), Cindy Gajda (K-5 Representative), Maria Starkings (Business Officer), and Orlando Buck (Middle School Representative)

Non-Voting Members Absent: Tracie Jernigan (SFA), James Stewart Payne (High School Representative)

The December 14, 2021 meeting of The Summit Charter School, Inc. Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:33 pm with Betsy Helms, Chair presiding.

All attending recited the Summit Pledge.

Approval of Minutes: David Billingsley made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes as they stand. The motion was seconded by Mark Letson, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: David Billingsley reviewed the financial report as of 12/6/21. Revenue collected from the County currently is under budget due to timing issues, and there is no cause for concern there. Everything else in revenue is right on track for YTD. Expenses are showing a deficit of \$54,000, again due to timing, in the full year forecast the deficit narrows. There has been an increase to Transportation & Travel by \$40,000 to account for the purchase of two mini-buses. The funds for the bus came from three areas: The forecasted budget surplus, a \$25,000 Doss Foundation Grant, and a Family Fund contribution. The buses are non-CDL buses, so any licensed driver approved by the school will be able to operate them. The buses are on order. Due to supply chain issues Summit is hopeful to receive the buses in 8-10 months.

Head of School Report: Kurt Pusch delivered the Head of School Report. Kurt Pusch updated the Board on Co-Vid cases on campus and in Jackson County. In November Summit had three positive cases of Co-Vid. Two of the cases were in the same household and identified during the Thanksgiving break.

Math assessments are being administered this month and Reading assessments will be administered in January. In ELA Summit is continuing with their curriculum review. In Math Summit continues to monitor the Middle School WIN structure. Summit is still seeking staff and/or volunteer support. Interested volunteers should reach out to Andrea Chalker. In college admissions at least all students will apply to one college, and most will apply to four. Seven of the fifteen students have been admitted into colleges. Dr. Moody continues to work with

teachers in base camps. Kurt Pusch has been in contact with TSS about their continued partnership to help Summit deliver place-based education. TSS will be on campus on February 18th. Kurt Pusch shared that Summit is focusing on promoting an “upstander” culture with MS and HS students, and they have introduced a new app called Say Something Reporting. The app allows students to report concerns or incidents of bullying, self-harm, violence, threats, or any concerns related to the wellness and safety of self and others. Kristina Newsom inquired to Summit’s safety protocols. Kurt Pusch reminded the board that Summit does an annual review of their safety protocols with the sheriff’s office. Mr. Lucas is responsible for overseeing Summit’s safety procedures on campus. There have been 23 off campus experiences offered to Summit students thus far. Basketball and Cheer are in full swing. Summit celebrated their first High School Homecoming. Work continues on the stage and the curtain should be installed in the next month. Everything should be up and running by spring. After school clubs will launch in January. The state approved a 2-year budget. Teachers will be receiving a one-time bonus in December and January funded by the state. The family fund has raised roughly \$90,000 towards their \$140,000 goal. 38% of families have participated so far. Orlando Buck is working with SFA to put together a winter fundraiser. The Family Fund runs through April. Pre-Enrollment forms went out and of the 101 responses all intend to return to Summit next year. Summit has received 11 applications for enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year. The rising Kindergarten population looks to be smaller than usual. The Strategic Planning Committee met to talk about talent retention & sustainability. They will be doing industry research focusing on area schools and charter schools to gather comps on compensation and benefits. A focus group of faculty will be formed to help us understand how everyone is experiencing their salary and benefits.

Mask Policy Recommendation: Betsy Helms asked the Board if anyone had any questions before the vote. A question was raised by Kristina Newsom as to possibly revisiting the mask recommendation coming off Christmas break. Kurt Pusch assured the Board he would keep everyone informed of community transmission levels and if the levels did spike after the holidays he would ask the Board to reconvene. Betsy Helms asked for a motion to pass the mask-optional beginning on January 14th as it stands. One member of the Board opposed the motion, and all other voting members approved. The motion was passed.

Development Report: The Festival of Trees was a huge success netting \$300,000. Many thanks to Melissa Hudson, Sarah Chapin, and Sarah Jennings. \$80,000 has been received in community donations for the Annual Fund. The Foundation has collected \$95,000 from the CCSV Cares event to date. All these funds will go to The Foundation. \$100,000 gift to the capital campaign is being used to fund the improvements to the stage. Summit has been awarded \$156,090 in grants this year to date. Summit has received a lot of coverage in the local media. A new scholarship program is being introduced that will run through the foundation. A first-ever Summit Alumni event was hosted during the Festival of Trees.

Committee Reports:

Facilities Report: Boris Krueger inquired with Maria Starkings about a possible water issue. Maria Starkings shared there was an old well house that was leaking causing the water to be out for 30 minutes one day. The issue was quickly identified and remedied.

Governance and Trustees: Betsy Helms said we are always looking for new board members. An attorney would be an ideal candidate. Community members are welcome to join the board.

Curriculum Report: Work on ELA Curriculum was covered in Kurt Pusch's Head of School Report

Strategic Planning Report: Work on Talent Retention & Sustainability was covered in Kurt Pusch's Head of School Report

SFA: Betsy Helms spoke on behalf of Collins Zimmer and commended her for all of their hard work.

Faculty Appreciation: Betsy Helms will reach out to the board via e-mail with regards to their participation.

Betsy Helms asked if there was any other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 PM