

Minutes for the Summit Charter School, Inc.

Board of Trustees

October 19, 2021

Report by: Erika Mason

Voting Members Attending: Betsy Helms (Chair), Boris Krueger (Vice Chair), Erika Mason (Secretary), Collins Zimmer, Jason Chick, Kristina Newsom, Tim Boeve, and Mark Letson

Voting Members Absent: Josh Crawford (Foundation Board Chair), David Billingsley (Treasurer), Ann Betty, and Elisabeth Hoffman

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

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

The October 19, 2021 meeting of The Summit Charter School, Inc. Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:40 PM with Betsy Helms, Chair presiding.

All attending recited the Summit Pledge.

Betsy asked if anyone on the board would be willing to take on the responsibility of Secretary. Erika Mason volunteered to take on the role of Secretary.

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

Comments on "One Summit Family Health & Safety Plan: Kurt Pusch welcomed any comments from the public and board members with regards to the current health and safety plan. There is a 30-day public comment period in order for Summit to receive Federal funds. The plan is posted on the Summit website. They will also be extending the opportunity for feedback via the 1st Quarter Parent Survey. Kurt Pusch also reviewed the current Co-Vid numbers at Summit and in Jackson County. Summit began their own testing program on October 4th, and so far none of those tests have yielded a positive result. Betsy Helms inquired if there were any immediate concerns with regards to Co-Vid. Kurt Pusch noted that it has been a challenge to keep students actively engaged when they are out for quarantine. It is a challenge for all involved; students, teachers, and parents. Orlando Buck commented that it is difficult to provide remote learning opportunities up on the mountain due to technology issues. As soon as students return to school teachers are working hard to get students caught up as quickly as possible. Collins Zimmer inquired if the school was still communicating positive Co-Vid cases via e-mail and text message. Kurt Pusch confirmed that they were, and fortunately they have not had as many positive cases as of late.

Mask policy vote: Betsy Helms asked the board to vote on the October mask mandate. Before the vote Kurt Pusch said the Administration recommended that Summit continue to require masks indoors on campus. Community transmission level is still high even though cases and positivity rate is down. Mark Letson made a motion to keep the current mask mandate in place. The motion was seconded by Jason Chick. There were two voting members not in attendance that opposed the current mask mandate. The motion to keep the current mask mandate in place was approved.

Head of School Report: Kurt Pusch welcomed the new faculty representatives. Kurt Pusch reminded everyone that the strategic plan focuses on Academic Excellence, Strength of Identity, and Financial and Talent Sustainability. Kurt Pusch then shared the Fall assessments with regards to reading and math. Summit is using this data to perform differentiated instruction and intervention in classrooms. They also administer a diagnostic ACT test for 9th and 11th graders. 10th graders were able to take a PSAT. 12th graders are in the college application process. Summit is also reviewing their current ELA curriculum with a committee of teachers for K-12 students. The faculty will engage the Board Curriculum Committee once they narrowed down their choices. They would like to make a selection by December. Math Achievement is progressing, and Orlando Buck agrees they are getting more out of the math curriculum now that the faculty has more experience with it. Kurt Pusch reminded the Board that they added a Math Interventionist to the staff last year to help students meet grade-level standards. Collins Zimmer asked if it would be possible to help recruit a group of volunteers that could assist during WIN time with the Middle School students so they were able to work in smaller groups. Kurt Pusch highlighted some of the Interdisciplinary and Non-Cognitive Learning projects that the students have engaged in recently with the 4th and 7th grades. Kurt Pusch then reviewed the college admissions process and the work Mrs. Bennett is doing with the students. Each student is required to apply to four colleges or universities. Mrs. Bennett and Rachel Frye are working to create a school profile highlighting Summit, so colleges and universities will have a point of reference in the admissions process. Collins Zimmer inquired about application fees, and if there should be some sort of financial assistance provided. Kurt Pusch assured the Board that financial obligations would not be a barrier for students applying to colleges and universities. They are encouraging students to apply to schools based on the best match and fit for them. Dr. Hannah Moody continues to work with faculty on providing place-based learning opportunities. There are 68 off-campus learning experiences currently scheduled. Athletics is wrapping up their Fall season. The cross country team brought home the Tri-State Championship. Basketball season begins in November. Community members, Don and Amanda Sentell have graciously donated \$100,000 to upgrade the Arts area in the gym. The upgrades will include stage lighting, sound, sound booth, and additional electrical work. A second phase of work will be done to allow for backstage access. A padding system will also be installed in front of the stage to provide safety during basketball season. Afterschool clubs are continuing into November, and then winter clubs will be introduced in December. Enrollment is currently strong with 253 students, and Summit is continuing to receive applications. The State is still finalizing their budget. The Finance Committee is holding on any amendments to their budget until the State budget is finalized. The Family Fund has launched and \$24,000 has been received in the first three weeks. Parents are encouraged to take part in the Family Fund. Collins Zimmer reminded the Board of the importance of volunteer hours when seeking grants. Kurt Pusch asked the Board to examine the current offerings with compensation and benefits for the faculty. The Strategic Planning Committee will begin to work on analyzing compensation and benefits.

Committee Reports:

- Treasurer's Report: Kurt Pusch delivered the report as of 10/7/21 in David Billingsley's absence. Current revenue is low, but Summit is still awaiting funds from the State, so there is no cause for concern there. Summit is currently projecting a \$33,000 surplus. The State only drops revenue as Summit incurs expenses, and the State allows three days to spend a draw.
- Facilities Report: Boris Krueger had no new business to report
- Governance/Trustees Report: Betsy Helms asked for additional assistance from Board Members on committees.
- Curriculum Report: Exploring new ELA options and Kristina Newsome plans to begin working with Betsy Helms and Collins Zimmer.
- Strategic Plan Report: Tim Boeve showed his appreciation for the structure of the meetings
- SFA Report: Collins Zimmer was extremely proud of the turnout and support of Summitfest. There will be a gratitude round-up the Friday before Thanksgiving. Various baked goods will be available for sale. SFA will be participating in the Cashiers Christmas parade the first weekend in December. Margaret Shutze is the Chair for the parade. Sarah Strawn and Sarah Peterkin will take over the role as Co-President of SFA.

Development Report: Festival of Trees is right around the corner. The goal for Festival of Trees is to net \$175,000. The event is open to all Summit families. The Family Fund is underway. Another \$47,000 has been netted in community donations. Country Club of Sapphire Valley raised over \$100,000 for Summit with their charity event. \$114,500 in grants have currently been awarded to Summit.

Faculty Appreciation Efforts:

- 1st Quarter: Krueger & Boeve
- 2nd Quarter: Betty & Zimmer
- 3rd Quarter: TBA
- 4th Quarter: TBA

Other Business: Kristina Newsom introduced herself and expressed her interest in joining Summit's Board of Trustees. Collins Zimmer motioned to have Kristina Newsom join the Summit Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Jason Chick, and the vote was passed unanimously.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.