

# Dillard Academy Charter School

## Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 Minutes

5:00pm

Virtual Meeting

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**Board Members in attendance:** Janet Ward, Thomas Smith, Christine Robles, Mary K. James, Mary B. Daughtry, Cheryl McCollough

**Board Member not in attendance:** Hosvan Arias

**Administrative Staff:** Carole Battle, Danielle Baptiste, Alan Williams, Pearlie Whitfield, William Baptiste

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- I. Call to order at 5:01 pm The meeting was called to order by Janet Ward with quorum of 6 members
- II. The pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
- III. Approval of September 14, 2021 was motioned by Thomas Smith and seconded by Mary K. James.
- IV. Approval October 5, 2021 agenda Mary K. James motioned to approve the October 5, 2021 agenda and Thomas Smith seconded it.
- V. Confirmation of Public Notice: Danielle Baptiste posted it on FB. DA website
- VI. Acknowledgement of visitors/Comments: Rene Hall
- VII. Statements: was read by Christina Robles

*Conflict of Interest Statement – Board members are reminded it is your duty to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest as we handle the work of the Advisory Board. Does any member of the board know of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before us at this meeting? If so, please state them for the record. If during the course of the meeting, you become aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest, please bring the matter to the attention of the chair. It will then be your duty to abstain from participating in discussion on the matter and from voting on the matter.*

*Mission Statement – to positively provide a safe and quality education with high expectations so that we can excel and grow.*

- VIII. Principal's Report
  - October is principal appreciation month.
  - Progress reports were sent out on September 17th.
  - A presentation of the progress report grade distribution was shown. Teachers with more than 20% of the students with D's or F's were asked to create an action plan for improving grades. Actions included involving parents, remediation, interventions, and focusing on attendance.
  - A attendance committee was created to curb chronic absences, and an attendance plan was created. DA Social-worker will do home visits.
  - DA's Afterschool program will begin November 1, 2021 for grades 3-5 will

- focus on math and reading. Tutoring for 6-8 grades will begin mid January.
- Enrollment is 252 and 12 students are on the waiting list.
- Discipline - during the month of September we had 20 referrals and one fight. Most infractions were from the 5th and 8th grade. Ms. Battle created the Triple B Challenge. During the 10 day challenge without a single referral will get a surprise celebration.
- Professional Development was given to staff on Bullying and students will receive it next week.
- Staff also received Canvas training. Canvas Learning Management System will help if we go remote again. The digital platform will allow teachers to post content and increase parent engagement. It is also compatible with Google meet.
- 504 plans are being reviewed
- Formal observations started October 4, 2021. Evaluations help increase employee improvement.
- iReady and mclass is how we assess the students progress.
- School bus behavior has gotten better.

IX. Accountability report

- iReady is being used to assess students' progress. iReady reading diagnostics tier levels - tier 1 has 10%, tier 2 has 41%, tier 3 has 40%. Math diagnostics tier levels - tier 1 has 7%, tier 2 has 40%, tier 3 has 44%.
- Unofficial NC EOG scores were discussed.

X. Central Services Report

- Budgets - The budget is at 84.16%. The expected rate of expenditure would be 80% at this time of the year. This is good because of a decrease in enrollment due to the COVID-19. The NCACPS is considering using the highest enrollment date for the first 40 days as the funding number.
- The surplus & cash balance is at \$520,960.72.
- Grants, Federal Grants were submitted prior to the September deadline. Titles' I, II, IV, ESSERS II and ESSERS III are awaiting feedback and approval. The school nursing grant will allow us to hire another part-time nurse and do COVID testing on campus. We have applied for a mobile health unit and are waiting for approval.
- Child Nutrition - The child nutrition workers, the custodians and everyone who works with delivering meals to the classrooms are grateful for the paved street and sidewalk between the annex and main buildings. This helps with the delivery of meals, PPE and supplies to the classrooms.
- EC head count is 26. 11 students are currently being served by Venture Rehabilitation. We are hoping to connect with Carolina Therapy Connection to handle our OT's.

XI. Governance

- Mary Kay James motioned to approve the Masking policy with no changes. Mary Daughtry seconded it. Janet Ward called for a vote 6 yes 0 no. Motion Carried.
- Annual Audit - Mary G. Keller auditor said there were no compliance issues, or areas for improvement.
- Charter Renewal, Dr. Shaundra Cooper will present our data report and use our school video. We are likely to get a 5 year renewal. In January 2022, we may have to go in person to the Charter School Advisory Board. CS academic parameters are to be within 5% of LEA.
- Dillard Academy's newest board member Cheryl McCollough was sworn in at 6:09 pm by DA Board Chair Janet Ward.

XII. Human Resources

- All staff and students continue to wear face masks.
- 1 staff member received the COVID vaccination since the last board meeting. That only leaves two who have not received the vaccination.
- Harry Townsend the head custodian is out sick and returns to work on 10/11/2021.
- Open enrollment will begin October 11, 2021 and run through October 29th. Right now we have 21 full time employees who are covered in the health plan. The cost for Dillard Academy is \$532.36 per person. There are 10 new employees who will become eligible.

XIII. Technology/Athletics Report

- Devices purchased for grade levels.
  - A. 80 iPads for K-2nd grades
  - B. 122 Chrome books for 3rd-6th grades
  - C. 56 Windows for 7th and 8th grades
  - D. 253 devices are assigned.
  - E. Order of 150 chrome books (Erate) to replace the broken and damaged devices.
- Projects:
  - Finished on ADT security cameras
  - Finished System upgrade ( 6 switches, 5 Access points, and UPS)
  - Equipment monitoring software(K-12) or (Impero)
  - 85% of the school campus is under surveillance.
  - Updated school server and software.
  - Athletics -Mr. Baptiste reported that following the NC Middle School and High School Athletics conference several schools came together to create the Mid Carolina Athletic. This new conference includes Alpha Academy, Kipp Academy, Health Start, Falcon Academy, and Dillard Academy.
  - Fall Sports: Girls Volleyball & Boys Soccer; Winter Sports: Girls and Boys Basketball; Spring Sports: Girls Soccer, Track & Field.

XIV. Parent Community Involvement Report

- We are continuing to communicate with parents on a daily basis.
- Staff are encouraged to highlight positive not only negative things to parents.
- Pastor Ben Landes of Faith Alliance Church donated school supplies and book-bags.
- Positive Influences continue to donate PPE supplies.
- We've been watching middle schoolers' mental health concerns, especially due to social media.

XV. Next Meeting - November 2, 2021

XVI. Adjourn - Mary K. James motioned to adjourn at 6:32 pm and Cheryl McCollough seconded it. The motion was passed unanimously.