



Minutes

September 13, 2020

Welcome – Debbie Clary, Chair called the virtual meeting to order at 1PM.

In attendance: Debbie Clary, Wes Westmoreland, Dr. Shelly Bullard, Dr. Pauline Cahill, Jeff Zeigler, Wendy Clary, Angela Brooks, Dr. Becky Sain, Jayson Philbeck, Phyllis Nowlen and Bobby Deermin, Parent Liaison, were in attendance.

Conflict of Interest Statement *In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. If any board member has any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the board today, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict at this time, and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.*

Adoption of Agenda *with adoption Motion made by Bobby Deermin and 2nd by Dr. Pauline Cahill, All Approved.*

Approval of Minutes *Wes Westmoreland made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2020 Meeting, Dr. Becky Sain seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by the board.*

Public Comments *Persons wishing to appear before the Board during this portion of the meeting should register their name and the subject they wish to address with the Secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting. Each presentation will be limited to three (3) minutes. The Board is interested in hearing your concerns, yet speakers should not expect comment, action, or deliberation on subject matter brought up during the public comment segment. Topics requiring further investigation will be referred to the appropriate board committee. No one from the public was in attendance.*

Administration Reports

Dean of Elementary Education Report *Wendy Clary presented the report as provided.*

Action Items:

- None

Facility

- Currently awaiting elevator inspection
- Cameras/Fob system are being installed
- Gym storage is being built

Virtual Academy K-3

- The virtual teachers have been very instrumental in helping with all quarantine students.
- The following are our current virtual numbers:
 - Grace Hoyle-Kindergarten-30 students
 - Melanie Brackett-1st grade-30 students
 - Carolyn Jackson-2nd grade-32 students
 - Jessica Kaylor-3rd grade-26 students

Fall Covid 2020 Classroom Setup

- Each grade level has a virtual teacher.
- Each K-2 classroom has been divided up for size reduction and to help with social distancing.
- Our Teacher Assistants are covering one half of the class as well as the Teacher.
- The gym currently holds 3 first grade groups.
- The mods are being utilized to hold two second grade classes.
- 3rd grade has divided students instead of classes in order to keep everyone on the K-3 campus for the first 9 weeks.
- Plexiglass dividers have been constructed and placed between students at tables.
- Temp checks are conducted each morning for staff and students. (100.4 or higher equals a fever.) Parents are asked a set of questions before they drop off students.
- Students and staff are required to wear masks during the day.

Upcoming Dates:

- i Ready Diagnostic (K-3) completed-September 16th
- Parent/Teacher Conferences-September 18th
- Fall Pictures-October 8th

Intermediate School Report

Curriculum and Academics

- Teachers have adjusted their pacing guides to allow for review and/or initial instruction of last year's standards.
- Virtual instruction is taking place at each grade level:
 - 4th grade - April Bridges (28 students)
 - 5th grade - All teachers (one class of 26 students)
 - 6th grade - All teachers (23 students)
 - 7th grade - All teachers (34 students)
 - 8th grade - All teachers (17 students)
- Google Classroom has been a valuable tool for posting assignments for both in-person and virtual students. Teachers are recording lessons and live streaming direct instruction, posting assignments, and holding Google Meets each day. These efforts help ensure each student, in-person or virtual, has access to the same material.

Professional Development

- Administrators and teachers will participate in NCEES training - the teacher evaluation instrument being used for the 20-21 school year.
- Lots of “teacher led” pd in taking place as more effective tools for virtual learning are discovered. Joseph is also providing “Technology Talk Tuesdays” and has shared numerous resources for teachers.

Testing

- Passport for Learning assessments were administered over the past 2 weeks. These assessments, for K-8 reading and math as well as Math 1, will measure mastery of the prior year’s standards. Data will be presented at the October board meeting.
- iReady Diagnostics in Reading and Math were given August 24-31 (still have makeups). Data is being shared and discussed during PLCs.

Exceptional Children

- Mrs. Fraser has provided all teachers with the IEP/504 accommodations for their students.
- We received additional funds (\$5168) to meet the unique needs of our students due to COVID and virtual learning.
- Additional eCATS training is being scheduled for EC staff.

High School Report *Angela Brooks presented the report as provided.*

Action Items:

- None at this time

Curriculum and Academics

- New High School Course Offerings - The High School team continues to look for opportunities for students to take courses that will benefit them and their futures. We have expanded our course offerings in several ways. A few of the highlights are included below.
 - A course from the University of Arizona Course - Ethics, Economy, and Entrepreneurship is being offered by Pinnacle Classical Academy this fall. We currently have 11 students enrolled in this university course. Mr. Ziegler is teaching the course and any student who successfully completes and passes the class will receive university credit as well as an elective high school credit. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students.
 - Dr. Martin has reached out to the North Carolina School of Math and Science and we will be able to offer an online physics course through their school this spring to any interested students. An email was sent out on Monday, August 24th to see if any students would be interested in the course for this spring. So far we have had five students to register for this course.

- PCA has the opportunity to offer a STEM elective this spring for 9th graders through a partnership with the NC School of Math and Science (NCSSM). Taking the course will allow students to be a part of the STEM Scholar Program through NCSSM. We have had one student to register so far and have sent the invitation to other students.
- In addition to the Associate in Science courses we have a few students that have started taking a few CTE (Career and Technical courses) for their future careers. Some of the classes include Welding and BluePrint reading.

Community Relations:

- There was a lovely article written by the Shelby Star that spotlighted one of our new staff members, Molly Wilson. The article addressed first year teaching and issues brought on by COVID. I have provided the link for you.

Professional Development:

- The High School PLC is meeting on Monday afternoons at 2:30 in Mrs. Welch’s classroom. Currently this is a time to relay important information about school opening, expectations, lesson planning, COVID protocols, etc. We will begin looking at data soon.
- Tech Talk Tuesdays are starting on September 15th. Joseph Hurdt and Steve Putnam offer a virtual meeting with teachers to problem solve and explore new ways to teach in a virtual setting. These were very well attended in the Spring and we are excited to be able to continue offering this opportunity for the 2020-2021 school year.

Testing:

- BOG Testing occurred on September 1st for students who attend PCA five days a week. We made a local decision not to test virtual students. Of the 72 of 107 (67%) students that tested our results were as follows:

Level 1	48.6%
Level 2	27.8%
Level 3	5.5%
Level 4	15.3%
Level 5	2.8%
Overall Proficient (3, 4, 5)	23.6%

Please remember this is the number of students that is currently in third grade that are proficient on the end of third grade material. This is a 7.7% dip from last year, but we are confident in our third-grade team and their ability to pull this up to a proficiency rate that is more in line with our mission. This number will allow us to show a tremendous amount of growth.

- Passport testing for grades 4-8 have occurred over a two-week period. Passport testing was put in place this year and tests students for the end of grade level last year. This is to give teachers data about where their students currently are in their class so they can adjust as needed based on COVID. We will have this data to present to the board at next month's meeting.

Extracurricular:

- The Class of 2021 took their Senior Portraits on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. Mr. Grose took these photographs and we will have the senior bulletin board on display outside the front office for all to see.
- We hosted the Senior breakfast on the first day of school for the Senior classes. It was a little different than last year due to COVID restrictions, but the students seemed appreciative. We want to make sure this year is memorable for each one of them.
- Student Government started making the morning announcements each morning and leading the school in the American and school pledges. This will take place at 7:55 each morning.
- Extracurricular activities started the week of August 31st. We will be looking for club sponsors for students, and ways to make the students feel connected to Pinnacle. This is also a great opportunity for students to develop leadership, communication, and organizational skills.
- Dr. Martin is organizing a Financial Aid Night for High School students and families on September 15th. Representatives from CFNC and Gardner Webb will be in attendance. The presentation will be remote and will be offered to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students and their families.

Upcoming Events

- August 19-21 - High School Orientation for Remote Learning/Senior Breakfast
- September 11 - Labor Day, No school for students
- September 15 - Financial Aid Night, 6:00pm
- September 17 - Constitution Day
- September 18 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- September 30 - Student Government Elections
- October 6-8 - Fall Pictures

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Report *Dr. Ziegler presented the report as provided.*

On September 2, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction released its annual report on graduation rates for the class of 2020.

“North Carolina’s four-year cohort high school graduation rate increased to 87.6 percent with the class of 2020, up from 86.5 percent for the 2019 graduating class. Since 2006, when North Carolina first reported a cohort graduation rate – then 68.3 percent – this critical measure of student success has improved by more than 19 percentage points.”

Pinnacle Classical Academy	>95%
Cleveland County Schools	88.0%
Burns High School	91.7%
Crest High School	92.0%
Kings Mountain High School	91.7%
Shelby High School	86.1%
Cleveland Early College High School	>95%
Turning Point Academy	46.8%
Lincoln Charter School	>95%
Piedmont Community Charter School	>95%
Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy	>95%

¹ *2016-17 Entering 9th Graders Graduating in 2019-20 or Earlier*

Classical Foundations Program (CFP)
September 8, 2020

1. The Classical Foundations Program advisory board held its first meeting on August 11. Wes Westmoreland was elected chairman; others in attendance were board members Justin Davis (Foundation for Economic Education), Matthew Morgen (Ayn Rand Institute), Thomas Pack (Intercollegiate Studies Institute), David Raney (Hillsdale College), Adam Smith (Classical Liberals in the Carolinas), faculty liaison Jeff Ziegler, and Debbie Clary.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance and School Pledge are recited over the loudspeaker daily.
3. Using John Allison’s Kenneth R. Meyer Lecture, Mrs. Breanne Norman Miller has compiled monthly character lessons based on the school’s values statement, along with a

schedule for showing video excerpts. In August, the theme was honesty; in September, it is integrity.

4. The Bill of Rights Institute has graciously sent 200 free pocket Constitutions (along with the Declaration of Independence) for distribution to students in grades 5, 8, and 12 on Constitution Day.

5. On Constitution Day, all social studies teachers will present a lesson based on resources from the Bill of Rights Institute. In addition, a brief video on the Constitution will be shown in homeroom.

6. Eleven students are enrolled in the dual-enrollment University of Arizona Ethics, Economy, & Entrepreneurship course.

7. Thanks to the Foundation for Economic Education, Professor Antony Davies (Duquesne University) and Professor James Harrigan (University of Arizona) will develop webinars for the Economics and Personal Finance course, taught by Mrs. Stockham:

- a. the uniqueness of the US and its economic system
- b. how to identify biased reporting/arguments
- c. comparing capitalism to socialism
- d. making oneself and one's degree marketable

Head Master Report *Dr. Shelly Bullard presented the report as provided.*

Action Items:

- Cease waitlist for 2020-21 school year September 30, 2020. *Motion made by Wes Westmoreland and 2nd by Jayson Philbeck, All Approved*

Curriculum and Academics:

- Virtual Learning
 - We are working on our plan for integrating the students who indicated they will return at the end of the first 9-weeks (October 16).
- Virtual Numbers
 - Year long: 65
 - Semester: 39
 - 9 Weeks: 155
- Middle and High School teachers are teaching synchronously with virtual students and on-campus students. It is amazing to watch them in action. Elementary teachers are taping lessons and posting to Google Classroom and hosting Google Meets with virtual students for instruction.

- **On Campus**
 - PLCs are beginning with all teachers in their leveled areas / content areas. We are continuing our focus on strong instruction and analyzing student data for academic gains.
 - Mr. Ziegler has sent information to teachers for Constitution Day which is September 17.
 - Senior weekly lunches hosted by Mr. Zeigler and Dr. Martin began this week. This time is used to discuss college applications.
- Goals for the year
 - As we move into this most different school year, we are keeping the focus on student learning and growth. Our PLCs, teacher walkthroughs / evaluations, and analysis of data will be intentional and driven towards increasing student achievement.

Professional Development

- We are continuing to build on the professional development offered last year on the work of Dorthy Sayers. Mr. Ziegler will be conducting sessions throughout the year.
- We are having to move from our internal teacher evaluation system to NCEES, the state system, because of licensure regulations for beginning teachers. Administrators and teachers will participate in NCEES training in the upcoming weeks.
- PLCs are beginning with all teachers in their leveled areas / content areas. We are continuing our focus on strong instruction and analyzing student data for academic gains.

Community Relations

- Katie Barnes was nominated by the GWU School of Education to write a story about her experience teaching during “Distance Learning” at the end of last school year and preparing for the new school year. Link to the article is [here](#).

Legal / DPI

- **Submissions**
 - Board Meeting Dates have been submitted to Epicenter, as required

Finance

- Financial budgets are attached. We continue to be in a strong financial position.

Athletics

- We plan to resume athletics in January with the following conference schedule
 - Winter (9 weeks) January 18 - March 20. Tournament week March 12 - 20

○ Spring (8 weeks) March 22 - May 22. Tournament week May 14 – 22

- Each sport can begin practices 2 weeks prior to the start date of their designated season. Each team will only play each other once.

Enrollment

- Enrollment numbers for 2020-21. Our 20th day is September 15.

Grade Level	Number of Students	Number of Classrooms
K	123	5
1	128	5
2	115	5
3	107	5
4	101	4
5	98	4
6	100	4
7	94	4
8	62	3
9	54	2
10	53	2
11	27	2
12	29	2
Totals	1091	47

Board Updates

Miscellaneous Board Updates

PCAEF Update

New Business

COVID Update:

4 Students are Home due to Positive results. No contacts identified on campus. 2 with symptoms, 2 without.

12 Students Home for Quarantine due to a positive exposure (All are asymptomatic)

2 Staff Members Home for Quarantine due to a positive exposure. (Asymptomatic)

1 staff member positive - but had been in quarantine 4 days before her positive result due to possible exposure.

1 Student being monitored at home due to potential symptoms that developed over the weekend but has not been tested.

To Date: We have not had anyone ON CAMPUS that has been symptomatic and there has been NO KNOWN spread on our campuses.

Old Business

Adjournment *Wes Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Pauline Cahill seconded. Meeting was adjourned.*