

**EOAC WACO CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020
REMOTE
5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Perry – In Person
Judith Benton – Remote
Dr. Cassy Burleson – Remote
Dr. Howard Childs – Remote
Susan Copeland – Remote
Charles Eaton – Remote
Betsy Gilchrest – Remote
Steve Hernandez – Remote
Robert Brock-Jones – Remote
Gary Luft – Remote
Billie Myers – Remote
Elizabeth Nelson – Remote
Dytrun Thirkill – Remote
Renee Turner - Remote

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dorothy Marstaller – Remote
Cassandra Bianchi – In Person
Brenda Sanchez - In Person
Robert Kunze – In Person
Kanisha Johnson – In Person
Nancy Cross – In Person
Susan Wilson – Remote
Amber Snider – In Person

STAFF MEMBERS ABSENT

Heather Shelton-Faulk

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carolyn Cotton

The meeting was called to order by President Ben Perry at 5:55 p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

ORDER OF AGENDA

The agenda remained the same.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement was read by President Ben Perry.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Ben Perry.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPOINT NEW BOARD MEMBER

Ben Perry welcomed Betsy Gilchrist, Director of Special Education for Waco ISD, to the EOAC Board. Ms. Gilchrist will fill the Board vacancy for Group B - Low Income Representative and Early Childhood Education. Mr. Perry stated that Ms. Gilchrist is a lifelong advocate for early childhood education.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Executive Committee recommends approval of the following Consent Agenda Items; September 28, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, September 28, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, Financial Report – September 2020, all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

WAIVER FOR TEACHERS WITHOUT ESL SUPPLEMENTAL CERTIFICATE

Nancy Cross presented the Waiver for Teachers without ESL Supplemental Certificate. Ms. Cross stated that one of the consistent challenges is finding Elementary teachers for reading content areas who have completed the ESL Supplemental Certificate. Currently the Waco Charter School has one teacher who needs this credential for the 2020-2021 school year. TEA is allowing campuses to submit a waiver for the credential.

The Executive Committee recommends approval of the Waiver for Teachers without ESL Supplemental Certificate as presented, all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

HB 3 GOALS

Nancy Cross stated that House 3 Bill was passed by legislature in 2019 amends Texas Education Code (TEC) to add Sec 11.1185 and 11.1186 to include plans that target early childhood (EC) literacy and math proficiency and college and career readiness.

Ms. Cross stated that among the provisions of the House Bill 3 legislation is the requirement that school boards adopt and monitor goals to improve learning outcomes for children in kindergarten through grade three as measured against the target of sixty percent of third graders scoring at the *MEETS* level on the rubrics for STAAR math and reading. Ms. Cross has requested that the Board of the Waco Charter School adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution of the Board of Directors of Waco Charter School – Adopting Board Goals for 2021-2025

Charles Eaton made the motion to approve the Resolution of the Board of Directors of Waco Charter School – Adopting Board Goals for 2021-2025, seconded by Dr. Howard Childs, all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE 50% TEST RULE – TAC 100.1032(B)(3)

Nancy Cross stated that the Charter School Performance Framework evaluates Waco Charter School with metrics for operation, academic and financial compliance. Ms. Cross stated that one of these requires that at least fifty percent of students be enrolled in tested grades (3-5 for Waco Charter School). Ms. Cross stated that Waco Charter School has been tagged for not meeting this metric each of the last two years. Ms. Cross stated with the addition of 2 kindergarten classrooms the enrollment for students in prekindergarten through second grade makes up more than fifty percent of the students at Waco Charter School. Achieving the high academic goals being required in tested grades for continued operation will be aided by serving the four-year-old children in our area and developing the skills they need to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. Ms. Cross has requested that the Board approve the following resolution as it is a required attachment to the TEA Waiver application:

Resolution of the Board of Directors of Waco Charter School Granting Approval of Application of TEA Waiver for 19 TAC 100.1015(b)(3)(G) and 19 TAC 100.1032(3)(C)(ii)

The Executive Committee recommends approval of the Resolution of the Board of Directors of Waco Charter School Granting Approval of Application of TEA Waiver for 19 TAC 100.1015(b)(3)(G) and 19 TAC 100.1032(3)(C)(ii) as presented, all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

PROVIDE REMOTE INSTRUCTION ONLY AS MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Nancy Cross stated that following the COVID-19 pandemic closure, TEA suggested that schools offer families an option of participating in on campus or remote instruction for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Cross addressed the age of the children at Waco Charter School stating that remote learning is not as effective as face to face instruction with a teacher in a classroom. Waco Charter School has approximately 25 students still participating in remote instruction, and among those there is a pattern of non-engagement and poor academic performance. If for some reason, it is medically necessary for the student to participate in remote learning it would require a note from the child's physician. Waco Charter School administrators ask that students be required to come back to face to face instruction starting November 9, 2020.

The Executive Committee recommends approval of the Remote Instruction only as Medically Necessary as presented, all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Nancy Cross stated that current enrollment is at 223 students with 16.6% attending by remote instruction. Ms. Cross stated that second progress reports were handed out to on campus learners and mailed to parents of remote learners last week to inform them on their children’s progress in school.

Ms. Cross stated that Waco Charter School has only had one student diagnosed with COVID-19 and the student hadn’t been on campus for 72 hours prior to diagnosis. Only one adult who was on Waco Charter School campus for professional Development Day on October 12, 2020 tested positive. During the time the adult was on the campus, no children were present. Ms. Cross stated that taking preventative measures, such as wearing masks, constant hand washing and sanitizing the campus has helped with preventing additional outbreaks.

Ms. Cross stated that the implementation of the Skyward Student Information system is proceeding. Ms. Cross stated that Skyward is providing enrollment data to be paired with instructional programs (Schoology, SAVVAS, Eduphoria and Education Galaxy) and to the child nutrition database (PrimeroEdge). Ms. Cross stated that the FrontRow Juno System was installed during the week of October 19-23, 2020.

Ms. Cross stated that the dual role of teaching on campus learners and supporting the remote learners has been a stressful challenge for teachers. Ms. Cross stated that they have accepted it and have given 110% effort to meeting the needs of all students.

Ms. Cross stated that attendance for on campus learners has been better than expected. Remote learners are not consistently meeting the options to earn attendance credit. Remote learners are required to complete assignments, and many are not even logging in daily, their attendance rate is well below expectations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Dorothy Marstaller wanted to remind the committee that TEA will join us virtually at the November 16, 2020 Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session is a standard agenda item and will appear on all governing board agendas. The Executive Committee did not enter Executive Session on 10/26/2020.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.



Board Chair



Date