**SAC Meeting**

January 23, 2023

2:00 pm

Members: Rob Boyette Ken Jones Gary Farmer Dr. Michele Handley

Absent: Hal Wright

Dr. Handley stated she appreciated everyone being here. Gary Farmer requested Ken Jones facilitate the meeting in the absence of Hall Wright. Mr. Jones led in the pledge to the flag, then read the Ethics Statement, and asked if there were any conflicts for the members. There were no conflicts. Mr. Jones called the roll, and we have a quorum.

1. **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Dr. Handley opened by thanking the committee for being here. Focus for the day is to update the Committee on positive things going on and save challenges for the next meeting as time is limited.

Dr. Handley introduced Chris Sivills who was hired as principle when the former principal, Shirley Reed, retired in December. Mr. Sivills was working for ENCSD under contract as an Educational Consultant when he applied for the position. After completing the recruitment process, he was the most qualified candidate and started in his new position on January 3, 2023.

Academic- Chris Sivills brief introduction about vision for academic department

Mr. Sivills shared his background and qualifications as principal.

Since January 3rd, focus has been on developing a shared understanding of instructional framework and department-wide expectations.

Key beliefs are putting students first in a friendly school environment where students are everything, high expectations, challenge students on a regular basis, and academically meeting students where they are at socially, emotionally, or physically. Need to showcase the great things that take place here; this is a hidden treasure, and we will bring out the positive elements of the school. There should be a concerted effort to focus on and be positive. This has been shared this with staff.

Other areas of progress:

* Safety Plan – Comprehensive safety plan with fire, chemical spill, etc. We have developed specific procedures for teachers to follow for fires, weather alerts, relocation off campus and working on a preunification plan. wanted to establish a set of procedures where teachers do not have to think, they can react quickly to get safe. That is what we focused on
* Audited the high school curriculum by reviewing all high school course work, the present and past schoolwork, dating back to entering the nineth grade. Audited transcripts adult high school transcript to identify courses required to facilitate graduation for high school diplomas. Changed courses to ensure students were taking a more rigorous academic schedule to prepare them for the real world. Ensure the ninth grade has a common and rigorous schedule for future.
* We have streamlined the elementary and middle school schedules. Curriculum for middles school exposes them to a variety of courses and students are on the same track in preparations for high school together as a group. Curricula is identified and implementation of appropriate curricula allows for North Carolina course of study that requires a transition plan documented in student’s IEP’s. We have started conducting an inventory and a review of curricula resources on campus to ensure we meet State standards. Started the process of reviewing curricula approved by the Department of Public Instruction for future implementation.
* School accreditation begins next year, and the School Improvement is conducting a self-assessment based on tool from accreditation agency to determine our strengths. The goal is to take this self-assessment and build our school improvement plan around our strengths and weaknesses.
* Conducting review of teacher licensure. Excited to have scheduled a whole host of interviews for teacher positions.
* Focus for the rest of the year: implementing the instructional framework, working on relationships, and walk-through observations for constructive teacher feedback.
* Gradual Release Model of Learning Objectives
* Professional development for our young teachers to support growth a variety of areas.
* Student and teacher relationships with appropriate boundaries.
* Teachers’ expectations from principal: emotional stability to pause rather than explode recognize their errors and strive to fix mistakes, teachers know he cares, and a principal that knows he is not always right.

*Questions: Mr. Jones inquired how many teacher positions we needed to fill?*

*A few vital positions needed: HS English, HS Math, MS Math, CT Coordinator, Elementary teacher, carpentry. Mr. Sivills said he had some good candidates coming for interview. Dr. Handley stated Mr. Sivills has a few applicants that are following him to ENCSD.*

Campus updates - Dr. Handley

* ENCSD new website with updated logo and pictures of improvements. Modern platform with tiles, still loading content, more user friendly. Hired a person as a graphics art and has this other technology skill, he has fine-tuned our logo and it looks like a hornet instead of a bee with the colors match our football uniforms.
* New maintenance bus shed/garage with a monetary gift from Susan Martin in 2017 designated for a larger maintenance building. Due to prices going up we have had to add money from the school’s operational budget. We have updated our equipment; this will allow us to perform our own maintenance for buses/vehicles.

*Questions: Mr. Farmer asked how many buses and if we still have the athletics bus. Dr. Handley stated we have thirteen total activity buses. We still have the athletics bus. It is fixed up and inspected and has been used for athletic travel. Dr. Handley invited committee to our last home game tomorrow evening at 4:00pm.*

* Shared pictures of the security fence and gates that is supposed to be completed with the security shed in February.
* Interior and exterior painting is almost complete. Interior painting has all the walls painted the same color in every building for continuity and professionalism.
* Windows in Massey and McAdams building have been replaced. Metal framework in Massey was not installed correctly so this has been replaced as well.
* All metal outside has been painted brown to match the window trim unless it is required to be yellow.
* New curtain in the auditorium with new screen and projector.
* The Concession Stand has been updated and is beautiful. Passed inspection with 100% sanitation rating and cleared to cook hot food.
* We are working on new signage at the front entrance. We had to work through a lot of codes to do this with a large electronic computerized display on a pole that could communicate out job vacancies, school closings, announcements, video’s, etc. This is also to be finished in the end of February.
* Our gym floor is approved to be resurfaced in February, with a new design using new logo for the center of the floor. Using colored stain instead of paint, it is supposed to last longer.
* This year we have basketball and cheerleading, and they have improved every game with a lot of community support.

*Questions: We were asked about sports at ENCSD. Dr. Handley stated for Homecoming we sent out invitation to alumni. This was a Thursday night and we had over fifty alumni plus visitors. Fifteen alumni came to play (from Morganton, Charlotte, etc.). Students loved playing against the alumni. There was a social afterward that students, alumni, and staff enjoyed socializing. It was a wonderful night! We have fifteen students interested in track. A question was asked about the condition of the track. It’s not great, but usable. Needs some repair, looked at resurfacing last year. It is on our project list we want to do; it is an eight-lane track. We want to get on rotation to host some meets and looking to partner with Special Olympics for their events. Mr. Jones inquired as to how many schools we have played this year. Dr. Handley responded seven with some being private and some charter.*

OC25’s Funded Projects – Dr. Handley

This list use to be full of funded projects to be completed. We have cleared this list. Every year we make new request. This year we received over 4.6 million dollars. The Mayfield and Alford buildings do not have a central system. They gave us $2.4Mto combine with ESSR funds to install centralized systems and AC in Williamson gym. Mr. Farmer mentioned he would love to see a walkway shelter built to go to the Alford building so students will not have walk in the rain to get to that building. A new roof for the Vestal building has been funded with $2.2M. Mr. Boyette ask if we were allowed to fill out forms for the OC25’s. Dr. Handley explained we have a person in school planning we coordinate with and that the work he does for us is very good.

Zero Barriers – Dr. Handley

Dr. Handley explained a year ago she got a call from STEM East. They are focusing on quality of K-12 STEM instruction in the eastern region of NC. She was invited to be a part of a team to submit a proposal to the Smithsonian Science Education Center’s Zero Barriers initiative. All teams were hosted for a summit in Washington, DC to begin the planning. The initiative is to focus on support to increase access to equity-based STEM for all students, especially those with disabilities. The team developed a plan for the ENCSD to be the “hub” for premier STEM education. We will start training the ENCSD science teachers, then this will be rolled out to any STEM teacher in a train-the-trainer model. This has led to several connections with other organizations for STEM education and preparation for employment in the pharmacological industry and opportunities for our staff and students to be involved in related initiatives.

*Questions: Mr. Jones stated this was amazing and we have come a long way.*

Senate Bill 593:

Senator Blackwell 4 years ago introduced senate Bill 593, but it did not make it through the House. It was reintroduced last year. It was ratified July 1, 2022, and vetoed by the Governor on July 14, 2022. There is a full bi-partisan effort, and this has been reintroduced. Superintendent Truitt is also in support of it.

*Mr. Farmer said this would make ENCSD more marketable, with Mr. Sivills’ focus on academics and the new updates to the campus, we could grow with enrollment going up. Thank you to Dr. Handley for this information. This is the best this place has ever looked.*

Discussion on vacant seat on the School Advisory Committee

Currently: Hal Wright, Chair Deaf Community

Gary Farmer, Co-Chair Special Education

Rob Boyette Individual from the Community

Ken Jones Member at large

Vacant Representation of the local school district

We need a nominee to send to the Board of Education for approval. Mr. Farmer would like to nominate Debra Powell but has not yet communicated with her regarding the potential appointment. She has 30 years of experience in special education as a teacher, her mother was a house parent here at ENCSD, and she signs. She also is from the African American community, is high respected, and loves the deaf. Mr. Farmer will contact Debra Powell to see if she is willing to serve on the School Advisory Committee and ask for her resume to share with the committee.

MOTION: Mr. Jones made a motion for Mr. Farmer to contact Debra Powell and, if she is interested in joining the SAC, to provide Dr. Handley with the necessary documentation to supply to the SBE for approval. Mr. Boyette second the motion. All were in favor and the motion carries.

Adjourned at 12:10 pm: Gary Farmer moved to adjourn, Rob Boyette seconded, all were in favor.

Minutes submitted by LaRee Langley