



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 13, 2015**  
**6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

*Our Mission is to inspire scholars to Learn with Passion, Lead with Confidence, and Live with Character so they will achieve their dreams for college, career, and life in a competitive global marketplace.*

**In Attendance:** Morris Wilder, Thomas Parrish, Bob Barnes, Chip Williams, Marcus Whitaker, Margaret Evans.

**Staff in Attendance:** Doug Haynes, Tim Everett, Crastin Artis, Ben Barnes, Richie Mitchell, Trent Weatherstone, Dr. Grova Bridgers, and Tasha Parker.

**Others in Attendance:** Parents.

Chairman Wilder called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Consent Agenda – Minutes and Financials
  - a. A motion to approve June minutes was made by Thomas Parrish, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously approved.
2. New Business – Morris Wilder
  - a. Mr. Wilder announced that the Board will hold a planning session on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until 2 pm.
  - b. A request was received from Michael Wiggins and Lisa Barkley to address the Board.
3. Public Comments
  - a. Ms. Lisa Barkley addressed the board to express concern about the elimination of her position in March.
  - b. Mr. Wiggins expressed concern about the academic program and how the school prepares scholars for college.
4. Chairman's Report – Morris Wilder
  - a. Ricky Parks has expressed an interest to join the board. A motion to accept the new board member was made by Thomas Parrish, seconded by Chip Williams and unanimously approved. His term will be up in two years and he will be eligible to serve an additional three year term.

- b. The proposed slate of officers for the new school year are as follows:
    - Chair – Thomas Parrish
    - Vice Chair – Marcus Whitaker
    - Secretary – Margaret EvansA motion to approve the new slate was made by Bob Barnes, seconded by Chip Williams and unanimously approved.
5. Legislative Update – Doug Haynes
- a. Mr. Haynes shared that a temporary budget is in place until the final is issued. It looks like the legislature will be in session for a while. It may be August 14<sup>th</sup> before a final budget is approved.
  - b. Some updates for facilities will be placed on hold until the budget is received.
  - c. Charter schools are being severely underfunded and are working in the legislature to secure additional local funding.
6. Health Care Benefits Update
- a. The increase will only be 4% instead of the projected 15%-20% increase.
7. Summer School
- a. Summer school is in session with about 42 students from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. These scholars were required to attend due to failing reading test scores. Eighteen high school students are attending summer school, with 17 having completed all requirements. Six scholars are using the Virtual Public School to get ahead and earn extra credits.
8. Strategic Planning Retreats
- a. Staff has held a strategic planning retreat to plan for the year as well as a planning day for improvements to our high school model. The new high school principal attended.
9. Summer Fun Events
- a. Scholars and parents are invited to come out for a cook out at Sunset Park on July 30<sup>th</sup> for high school from 5-7 pm and Aug 1<sup>st</sup> for elementary students (K – 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-11 am; 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 12-2pm) to meet teachers and a skate party at Star City Skate and Play for middle school on July 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm.
10. Employee Contracts for 2015-16
- a. Ms. Joyner, Elementary Principal, has been undergoing therapy. It will be at least January before she is able to return to work. Richie Mitchell will be acting as principal for elementary and middle school. Stephanie Denton has joined the team as a second elementary Principal.
  - b. Currently there are 12 new hires for the new school year which leaves only a few vacancies.
  - c. A motion to approve employee contracts for 2015-16 was made by Chip Williams, seconded by Marcus Whitaker and unanimously approved.

## 11. Summer Improvements – Tim Everett

- a. The middle school lab will be converted into a math lab. The sidewalk by the gym is being repaired as it floods when it rains. Contractors will be painting classrooms and exteriors. The gym floor is being resurfaced and will have a new floor covering. New lighting is being phased in to reduce costs.
- b. We purchased two used buses from Wilson County Schools and will sell two of our old buses for \$4,000.
- c. The current accounting firm, Acadia, has not submitted a contract for renewal and the three year contract is up. We are looking at changing firms to save over \$30,000 per year. The new firm would be Charter Financial Services. The board acknowledged that they were comfortable with the change.
- d. The HVAC system is original to the building and is in need of repairs. He asked the board to consider the need to replace the system in the next few years at a cost that will be between \$750,000-\$1,000,000.

## 12. Board Policy Proposals

- a. There is a need to have a criminal background check policy in place.
- b. Anti-nepotism policy is being requested by the state for all charter schools to have full disclosure about relationships that are in conflict. Board members would be allowed to have relatives work at the school but not in management roles.
- c. Facilities use policy would require approval and payment before the facilities could be used for non-school functions.
- d. Employee leave currently consists of 10 leave days, Easter break, 2 months in the summer and holidays for 10 month employees. The proposed change would be more in line with other schools.
- e. Mr. Whitaker requested more time to review the proposed changes for any needed changes. The board will vote on the above items at the August meeting.

A motion to go into closed session to discuss Ms. Barkley's comments was made by Bob Barnes at 7:45 pm, seconded by Margaret Evans and unanimously approved.

The board instructed Mr. Haynes to consult with the school's attorney and have him draft a letter for Mr. Parrish's signature to respond to Ms. Barkley.

A motion to end the closed session and go into open session was made by Chip Williams at 8:02 pm, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously approved.

## Next Meeting Dates

- a. August 15<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 9 am – 2 pm

## Other Business – Morris Wilder

- a. None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marcus Whitaker, seconded by Bob Barnes and unanimously approved.