

CAROLUS ONLINE ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MAY 16, 2024, AT 5:00PM
VIA ZOOM

I. Preliminary Items

Called to Order 5:03pm
Roll Called

Board Members present:

- John Pallasch, Chair
- Dan Martin, Vice Chair
- Kristen Bell, Secretary
- Gretchen Dobbs, Member

Others present:

- Pamela Sieger, K-12
- Chad Long, K-12
- Dr. Carlotta Redish, K-12
- Dr. Naarah Bryant, K-12
- Kanasha Morman, K-12
- Chris Webber, K-12
- John Kramer, K-12
- Betsy Carpentier

II. Action Agenda Items

- Approval of the minutes from previous meeting. Kristen Bell made a motion to approve. Dan Martin seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Auditor RFP. Chad reached out to more auditors so we are sticking with the state-approved firm we discussed at the last meeting. Dan made a motion. Kristen seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Approval of the FY25 Budget. Talked to authorizer about per student funding rate. We thought the rate would be flat, but the authorizer is expecting an increase. Dan Martin made a motion to approve the budget. Gretchen seconded. Unanimously approved.

III. Regular Agenda Items

- Six candidates for board consideration. Pam consulted with Betsy regarding how to move forward and discussed with the board. Consensus to request resumes and a questionnaire with pertinent information. Per Scott's suggestion, Pam will

consult the authorizer regarding possible existing questionnaires. We have until July to appoint a full board. Discussion about keeping the board at seven members ensued. Consensus to remain a seven-member board reached. Pam stated that Dr Redish and Bryant have been a significant part of the process. Pam committed to having resumes by next Tuesday at the close of school. We will add an action item to next month's meeting to vote on two new board members.

- Financial Update (including CC application) John Pallasch has our credit card. John will begin the process of acquiring another card for operations manager. Chad reported that BoA is unable to accommodate funding over insurance above FDIC. Chad advised that in order to ensure funds above FDIC limit, we need to open a Merrill Lynch savings account. They work with different banks within their network to insure up to ten million dollars. By making this change, we would also receive a better interest rate. Therefore, we plan to move the funds over to Merrill Lynch to have insurance that we need.

IV. School Leadership Report (Pam)

- Enrollment update. We have 762 students during year 1. Goal for year 2 is 1400.
- COA One Pager. Data shows that 92% of COA students in K-5 are passing their courses. Higher percentage of several minorities than state demographics. COA has identified 57 students as McKinney Vento. 84% qualifying for FRL. We are looking at potential additional students. Statistics show that COA is higher than the state average. We were sure to supply those families with uber cars for testing. We recognize the need to focus on our at-risk students. Leadership is meeting the week of June 10 to plan for fall. Focusing also on K3 reading initiative because we are behind. COA is offering a summer camp. The camp will be phonics based and include reading and writing. Kanasha hopes they will attend. If not, students will be possibly be recommended for retention. However, there are 6 exemptions, i.e. students with IEP, interventions, etc. This will be the last year for those exemptions. As of tomorrow morning, we have 635 families out of over 700 are reregistering. 59 students are undecided (haven't responded yet). 3/4/5 grade. We want more help with social emotional learning and trauma informed and overall outings, community outreach. At least one local outing per month.
- School community outreach update with testing site updates. Staff is working on updating the website to become more vibrant. Testing week 1 Bluffton. Pam showed photos of staff and students with COA t-shirts. Staff got approval from students before posting. Recommended we use Instagram as well as Facebook. Community outreach events are scheduled for the 19th. PR firm is slated to be there. The firm will take pictures and interview families. Pam noted that staff will be required to attend at least one back to school event.
- Early hiring and overall hiring update. Fully staffed.
- High school update. There are 81 students in 8th grade and over 100 students' applicants for high school. Pam meets every Monday with marketing and

enrollment. Efforts include auto dialers to remind about the high school launching, and pop out screeners to remind students about high school.

- Testing update. Makeup testing in Columbia next week 80 students.
- Year-end update.
 - i. Office Space update. Pam will be touring office space later in the month. We are looking for a larger location to allow for testing, major hubs and teacher professional development. We are required to give a 90-day notice at current location.
 - ii. Agreed that Mascot will be added as an action item next month.
- Introduced Lisa Jenkins: Special Education Registrar (not present)
- Introduced Chris Webber: HS Academic Administrator. Chris is looking forward to building the programs and helping us grow.

V. Adjournment. 5:47pm Kristen made motion to adjourn. Dan seconded. Unanimously approved.