

Attendees:

- Present: Kristina Vargo, Jaime Coyne, Mae Lane, Baburhan Uzum, and Ashlee Marshall.
- Non-voting board associates present: Craig Toney, SHSU Charter School Superintendent; Viki Stifflemire, Administrative Associate; Rebecca Carruthers, District PEIMS Coordinator; and Ginger Yount, TSUS Office of General Counsel.

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

- Dr. Kristina Vargo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and noted a quorum was present.

2. Approve Minutes for September 2023 Board Meeting

- Minutes of the September 19, 2023 Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Toney presented the campus updates.

○ Campus Updates

Mr. Toney provided the following:

- Some items of interest from the Bearkat Buzz were noted, particularly:
 - Gifted and Talented (GT) and Special Education employees are working well with students.
 - Emergent bilingual student numbers have increased. Many languages are represented. The emergent bilingual population is trending upward.

○ Financial Reporting

Mr. Toney spoke on behalf of Richard Ray, the Business Manager for the Charter School.

- Mr. Toney presented highlights of the Financial Report as of September 30, 2023.
- Enrollment is a little down over last year due to loss of Greengate. Average daily attendance is higher this year. Final enrollment numbers for this year will be based on the snapshot of this coming Friday.

○ 2023-2024 Enrollment Update

Mr. Toney provided the following:

- Enrollment currently stands at 467. There were 11 withdrawals and five or six enrollments, but some packets are still out. The Charter School may consider doing formal exit interviews with parents. The Charter School is also considering recruiting efforts at Spring Woods. The cap is currently 20 per class. Brighton Academy is packed, but Spring Woods could expand.

○ Staffing

- One vacancy right now

○ Academic Progress – First Nine Weeks

- The second-grade math students did well. See Bearkat Buzz for highlights.
- Upper grade levels scored a little lower on benchmark scores for this time of year. However, good progress is shown. Mr. Toney is proud of the progress made this period. Response to Intervention (RTI) meetings are taking place today.

○ Recognition of National Principal's Month

- Alicia was not in attendance, but her accomplishments and work ethic were recognized. She is doing a fantastic job assuming responsibility for three sites.

4. **Executive Session** – The Board conducted an Executive/Closed Session pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.076, et. seq. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in Open Session. The Board recessed to convene in Executive Session at 10:26 a.m., Executive Session adjourned at 10:46 a.m., and the Board reconvened in open session at 10:47 a.m.

5. **Discussion and Possible Board Action**

- Approval of Bilingual English as a Second Language (“ESL”) Program Evaluation

Enrollment is up in the ESL Program. A waiver will be submitted to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding certification of service providers in ESL training. Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) assessments are trending upward. There is an increase in communicating with multi-lingual parents. There may be value in determining how to communicate with parents who are not English proficient.

Motion by Dr. Uzum, seconded by Dr. Coyne, and was unanimously approved.

- District/Campus Improvement Plan

Assess 2023-24 goals. Science improved but not as much as desired. Measuring culture at the campuses is qualitative, not quantitative. Issues of concern in developing a healthy culture are work-life balance, human capital, logistics, and working conditions, such as air-conditioning issues. The goal of a healthy campus culture is to take the load off of teachers, allowing them to focus on teaching. Dr. Vargo made recommendation to have a teacher work with the superintendent.

Motion by Dr. Marshall, seconded by Dr. Coyne, and was unanimously approved.

- Approve Board Policy 400.120

Module 400.120 is a new addition to the Board policy. With this new module, teachers will be providing additional instruction outside what they currently provide. Consider whether there may be a stipend involved to address their additional work.

Motion by Dr. Lane, seconded by Dr. Uzum, and was unanimously approved.

- House Bill 3 (“HB 3”) Board Approved 2023 Goals

This subject will be tabled until next month.

No vote was taken.

6. **Public Comments** (Public shall be limited to five minutes per person.)

- No public comments were presented.

7. **Adjourn**

- There being no further business, Kristina Vargo announced the meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.



Dr. Kristina Vargo, Chair