

Charter Board Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2023

Room 215 @ DCCS

Present: Diane Swingley, Chair, Joanne Gordon, Laura Stufflebeam, Rebecca Sawyer, Matt Giles and Joe La Fontaine. Student Representatives Natalie Harris and Keyleigh Loiodici arrived after practice.

5:39 Chair Swingley noted that the Reader Board failed to include information about the Charter Board Meeting. Executive Director La Fontaine was surprised to hear this and suggested he would investigate why it was not included.

Chair Swingley noted that we were meeting without a quorum. She mentioned that she wasn't sure if Anna would be attending. Then she went on to describe her uncertainty with David Brown continuing on the board. She mentioned that his verbiage left her uncertain.

La Fontaine read Brown's email and suggested that it sounded like he did not intend to continue. He suggested that he would try to touch base with both Rickards and Brown to verify their intentions.

5:43 The Chair called the Meeting to Order –

Those in attendance did the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joanna Gordon shared her view that the community has only so many families and those who tend to volunteer are volunteering. They tend to be the ones who are always asked to volunteer.

Natalie Harris and Keyleigh Loiodici arrived from practice. Joanne explained the issue of decreasing board membership to the students as they arrived. The students did not have much to offer at that time.

There was some conversation about the charter. Matt Giles asked about the length of the charter and when it expired.

Swingley explained that it was a ten-year chart and it was good through 2026.

Giles talked about the value of the Charter Board through the Health textbook adoption process. He felt oversight was very important. He used an example of how only two of the five approved adoptions had information about X/Y Chromosomes.

La Fontaine solicited the students to report on anything they had to share about school. Loiodici said the year was off to a good start. She said she felt the school lunches had something to be desired. She highlighted the quality of the salad bar but said the rest of the food was poor in quality.

Harris reported that the year was off to a good start. She commented on how students attended a leadership conference the week before. Then she shared that she felt the teachers seemed to be doing more teaching and holding kids accountable.

Joanne Gordon then mentioned our need to establish a community garden. There was a lot of discussion about the benefits of having a community garden and how fresh vegetables could benefit students.

Lura Stufflebean suggested a plot of land next to the lane. This resulted in a discussion about the best locations and locations that were less than optimum.

At 6:28 Chair Swingley suggested that we present Mr. Giles with a plaque for his service and contributions on the Charter Board. Mr. Giles expressed appreciation for the work done by the board and spoke warmly about his time in service on the board.

After the award, the conversation returned to ideas of how to recruit more members for the Charter Board.

LaFontaine shared that there was the 50th anniversary of the FFA charter coming up in March. That should draw a lot of community interest.

Stufflebeam said "if you want to catch the community", you need to do it at a game." She explained how well the games were attended.

Then the two students suggested that they could do a bake sale at the Senior Night Football game on 10/13. They could then hand out little flyers about the board and see if they could drum up interest. The girls confirmed that they would follow through on this in support of the board. They explained that the game was at 3PM.

Stufflebean encouraged them to set up by the concession stand. Joanne said she might show up to help by handing out the flyers.

Then the students excused themselves to go home.

The conversation returned to the formal status of board members Rickards and Brown resignations. La Fontaine offered to follow up with them in the upcoming weeks.

6:50 La Fontaine provided a review of the draft of the School Board Agenda. He began by mentioning the Student of the Month presentations at the school board. They will be moved forward in the agenda. He suggested the Charter Board representatives at the Board Meeting may want to engage the School Board on dates and time of Rod Cotton school board training. He shared that the board is also beginning to review some policy.

He explained that the majority of his report to the board was focusing on the curriculum mapping work being done by the staff. The work the staff was to do on Friday, October 6 was also curriculum mapping. La Fontaine feels that they will have a science map done by Christmas and more than that done by the end of the semester.

Chair Swingley noted that Preliminary Student Data was included on the board report but it should have been on the Charter Board Agenda. La Fontaine shared general outcomes from that data. He explained that the reading and math both had gone up. (Math from 15.5% to 17.1% and Reading from 19.6% to 28.8%). La Fontaine suggested there should be another increase in next year's testing as well. La

Fontaine talked briefly about staff recognition awards. He suggested these might be something that the Charter Board, or a sub-committee could embrace. He explained there is an intent to celebrate high performing staff.

While discussing the Student of the Month Awards, LaFontaine also suggested that holding the Charter Board Meeting prior to the School Board Meeting could produce some overlap of the agendas to celebrate these kids and maybe get the Charter Board some exposure with the community.

After the report, the conversation returned to the need to have a community garden. That eventually evolved into a conversation about lunch quality and what could be done to improve the lunches.

La Fontaine stated that he would be willing to talk to the cook about these issues and concerns.

At 7:20, La Fontaine suggested they adjourn.