Elkton School District #34
Charter Council
Minutes 2.7.23

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.
Members present: Cynde Pakros, Travis Heath, Scott Cooper, Candy Weatherly
Staff present: Andy Boe, Melissa Whitley
Guest: Steven O'Neal, Teacher

1. Presentation of Elkton Alternative Online Education Program proposal by Steven O'Neal
   - Cynde Pakros asks how do we recruit/market students?
   - Andy Boe states we already bring in at risk kids. We can offer this to students already on the waiting list and are credit deficient. This would provide a personal check in piece and opportunity to gain credits.
   - Travis Heath states that one designated teacher per 4 grades would be like a grade school teacher that teachers all subjects and they would have to direct/teach four classes.
   - Steven O'Neal states that many kids can't sit in a traditional classroom, and this gives them an option. The hardest subject to manage instruction would be math.
   - Andy Boe states the one teacher for all subjects all students can be an issue. Generating the revenue for the kids enrolled in the alternative ed program would allow to build the program around that funding. The curriculum used during COVID is already there in Canvas. If you look at the scores in Douglas County we did a good job with that online instruction. The FTE for one teacher and all in numbers is close to $80,000 including all associated payroll costs. Additional costs such as connectivity, equipment, and other possible expenses we're looking at $120,000. Scaling that forward the more kids you have the more numbers you generate and we've been in that problem in the pat because we have to be able to serve them. We're losing kids because we do not have this type of a market and we are not in it.
   - Scott Cooper – shared an experience with alternative education. What made Elkton successful was the personal relationships built during COVID when required to be online.
   - Andy Boe states that there is funding skepticism at the state around online alternative education.
   - Steven O'Neal shares that all of our curriculum is online right now and we would be able to access our classroom teachers for guidance when necessary. You can imbed virtual field trips and virtual relative accessible tools.
   - Scott Cooper says there are great things going on in virtual campuses that are accessible such as SWOCC and OSU.
   - Andy Boe states that bias and goal would be to get kids to real places maybe by using the virtual to begin with but then getting students to UCC or a technical program is the end game. We've talked about someone being there for that kid every single day and if you don't have that you lose it. Sutherlin online has their academy, but a lot of the programs are providing a login and username and then instructing to go study. That does not work and I know for a fact that it doesn't work. There has to be more than that, there has to be a person available.
   - Steven O'Neal shares his personal online instruction story. A Requirement would be to have office hours 8-5 and require a physical online check in with each student.

DRAFT

- Andy Boe states that the program would have to scale itself up. It is going to be a cost deficit at first and we would put children in a place to be successful and then after a while we can scale up. We are not doing this to make money as we are to give kids a chance to be successful. We have to set some firm limits. Right now, we did not open up the district to the wait list as we have so much learning loss with the kids that we have here, we need to get them the instruction they need and not bring on more students. There are so many kids out there, you're right, a wave of kids especially freshmen and sophomores, who didn't go to school during COVID and they are now credit deficient.
- Scott Cooper states that there's nothing saying that districts can't raise the age limit and keep those kids to educate them.
- Andy Boe states that you have to explain that. Steven will come to the Board next week. We are working through the legalities of it. This group would be a program that would be under the District and not affecting the charter school. It would be a program and not a charter. It's a little bit misleading because some districts like Eugene will have multiple charters but because we are a K-12 charter we can only have one charter. The idea is to catch the group of kids that needs it, those who are truly struggling with credits not those who just don't want to be in school.

2. **Superintendent Update**
   - Mr. Boe attended the COSA conference. They are approaching the governor to increase the budget to over 10 billion. Mr. Boe does not think more money solves the problems but more efficient solutions will solve the problems. Matching funds should be the way and made competitive. I think we're heading down the right path funding wise and it may last 2 years.
   - Our Board was asked to participate in an ethics review where they are required to complete evasive questioning. That is one that that was presented to legislators that limits the people who have to participate in that ethics reporting. The thought is people in large places run for school board for other reasons to step into other elected positions. The thought was to minimize small boards from having to participate so we do not run off board members in rural areas.
   - Octopi have 8 brains. In theory, this octopus can move one arm independently and then when we get together the main brain runs it. It's a systems analogy for a school district it's a model that leads into engagement/professional development. We attended an event called GYTO in Roseburg and that's a continuation of trainings that focuses on engagement and then leads to rigor. It's like the idea if you have a robotics program and kids do better in science and they can see the practicality and apply the skill. It is scientific. It is very measured. There is data that comes back to us surveying kids and teachers. What came up time after time kids always have an aversion to bathrooms nationwide. And it's around the unpredictability as to who is in there and what's going on. It's a weathervane if you make incremental changes to watch if kids feel safe in the bathrooms. The online instruction we had was more about keeping in touch and getting information to kids and now we are trying to increase the expectations. We received a lot of funding to be able to send a lot of staff to the GYTO event in Dallas.

3. Charter Council Goals – Looking at what we're doing and how we're doing it.
   - Review of the packet circulated of graduation requirements, schedules, policies, calendar. There are some scheduling barriers because of our size, it's difficult to move teachers around. There are reasons they are teaching what they are teaching. I am interested in

DRAFT

modifying the day to a 6-period day and having student classes as block schedules every other day and finding balance that teachers are with kids longer for specific subjects. It's essentially the same amount of time in a class as total. Block scheduling limits the preps teachers have to have.

- Scott Cooper asks how much push back do we have on 8 preps?
- Andy states that the push back is in finding people to fill our open positions. I'm not sure why they went to an 8-period day but we need to get our content done. During COVID we tried having a Friday lab day. It would require 5-day week for certain courses and certain teachers. We could require a block of an elective on a Friday. We are looking for opportunities to utilities some Fridays.
- Scott Cooper states we were using comments like project based, cross curriculum, natural resources when we first went charter. Has that all gone back to standard?
- Andy Boe states that by nature we are cross curricular than other places because we did do a lot of that crossing. I'll bring you some models to look at next meeting. I am not a fan of early release days once per week for professional development reasons. I like our model using the Friday for teacher professional development, but I think there is some room here to plunk in some lab days.
- Scott Cooper asks do you think the ADM of students will support that idea?
- Andy Boe says I do. There will be some extra costs built in like food service and transportation, but I think it would be worth it. All the money that is spread out in student success dollars, this fits right into those asks.
    - Review of instructional hour requirements
- Under NCLB there were standardized requirements and we've morphed away from that. There are some funding pieces still tied to that accountability measure.

4. Goals
    - Scott Cooper – curriculum adoption – I would like to back the teachers in that.
    - Cynde Pakros – I feel the same. I trust the teachers here.
    - Scott Cooper – If the don't have buy in, they won't teach it.
    - Cynde Pakros – I know you went through this long period being questioned around CRT and that calmed down because you built these relationships and shared what was being taught.
    - Andy Boe – My feelings around that is the outcome was exactly what we needed. We needed to bring people in to talk.
    - Scott Cooper – There was a public forum?
    - Andy Boe – We did. We started with social science and handed out the text books and answered all questions they had and reviewed the state standards and then went to science and ELA adoption and it fizzled. There were some things people were squeamish about but what we chose was not laden with CRT nor laden with gender or other hot topics. We were able to strike that balance. The perception is every educator is susceptible and trained above and beyond CRT and that selling CRT is not true as I know the people that work for me and I know what they're teaching and for here we are on a different place on that spectrum.
    - Andy Boe states that the term social emotional learning is a hot topic right now teaching kids how to think or feel. We're getting kids who are more messed up than we've ever seen and we've gotten kids who socially cannot deal. We have kids who did not socialize for 2 years. It's funny where it shows up. In Kindergarten/first grade and 8th grade.

DRAFT

- Travis Heath states 7/8 grades are partial to hormones, and they weren't socialized while those hormones were changing and they flipped the stupid switch.
- Andy Boe states that's another topic we have to be careful with we've always done a good job with that.
- The key is while we develop our goals, we have people like you who are here learning of it and can go into the community and share that information.
- Scott Cooper says education is meant to be critical and we think of the things that went before us.
- Andy Boe says that's one of the things is that when the CRC group spoke with our teacher to learn how the questions, by our students navigates and stays neutral and how they navigate the art of teaching.
- Cynde Pakros asks what's happened with senior project?
- Andy Boe responds that it went away during COVID and the state rescinded the requirement.
- Cynde Pakros states I know they had to do a senior paper, but I guess the senior presentation isn't required right now.
- Andy Boe says that the engagement piece needs to be reemphasized.
- Travis Heath states I know 2 of my step kids had to do it but it was something they enjoyed anyway, and it gave skills that they use every night and every weekend.
- Cynde Pakros says that her son wanted to improve his computer that a kid at OIT built. He struggled knowing what to write about and decided to write a manual on how to do that and that's what his project was. His goal now with robotics and another student who is a programmer, he is going to write a programming manual.
- Andy Boe stats what I think it does is it starts a process in a kids mind, as a freshmen you're not ready to do that. You're learning in class, and kids need to understand that they will continue that by the end of this as a senior they are putting things into practice. I would like to see if these courses do that and allow kids to build from freshmen to senior.
- Travis Heath states I think it's important that the schools schedule allows for those UCC classes to be able to happen.

    - Goal 1 – Look at graduation requirements and make sure they are building from freshmen to senior.
        - Are we preparing kids to the outcome of being self-sufficient and being able to work.

- Scott Cooper states that the social emotional piece the kids don't get is lost in the numbers here.
- Travis Heath says the kids know who they can get away with crap with and they know who they can't and the ones they can't they have more respect for.
- Andy Boe says that's the thing around the accountability piece we've built in and one of the reasons we're not bringing more kids in at this time.
- Andy Boe -We have the robotics, FFA, athletics and they have options and kids are having to choose and that's not necessarily a bad thing.
- Our house system and our virtues program allowed kids to identify to their house to give a group of peers that are around them and like them rather than just being an Elk because there's a disconnect between kids who come to us from another geographic location.

DRAFT

- We will assemble a goal around schedule if we are using our time most efficiently to prepare kids who are prepared in post-secondary life.
- We have two goals and that will be great. Next meeting please pour over the packet and we will dive into the credit requirements and how to keep our seniors engaged.
- Scott Cooper – possible micro-credentialing?
- Andy Boe – We will look at this over the next couple of months and then make a recommendation to the Board. Some ideas may be implemented this next school year and some may be 24-25.

If you have questions call me if you have people asking questions have them call me.

Next Charter Council meeting is April 4th.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

DRAFT