BROOKSVILLE ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY, INC.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 26, 2021

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am

Patricia Laird, Jason Kahler, Rhonda Nienhuis, Fairella Cook in attendance.

Ms. Cook motioned to change a word in July 12th minutes from "make" to "request" regarding having parents sign student progress reports.

Mr. Paul Douglas was not present at the meeting. We will move the vote on his board member acceptance to the next meeting. He needs to be in attendance for a vote to occur.

Mrs. Laird provided updates from the previous meeting. The PPP forgiveness has been applied for; we are waiting for it to be finalized. The bank account signers have been updated. Mrs. Laird and Mr. Kahler are now the only signers on the account. The teacher LEAD funds for classroom supplies is available again this year. We are working on cleaning out the POD so we can get rid of it. The teachers are asking to use IXL and USA Test Prep this year instead of APEX.

Gator cleaning has stripped and waxed the floors in the classrooms. It was not done last summer as usual. The radios have also been sent out for repair. They were not repaired last summer.

Mrs. Laird is working with Bob Walker to schedule the annual audit and complete the budget.

There are several different grants available to the school, approximately $38,000, but are on hold currently with the state. Once they open back up, we will be able to utilize those funds.

Ms. Nienhuis advised that the ELA curriculum had originally been based on the quarterly novel, incorporating vocabulary and other lessons. There are adjustments that can be made to meet the states BEST Standards. When the state opens the ESSER grant, we can then purchase new textbooks for the class. Mrs. Nienhuis looked into texts from Savis (previously Pearson), McGraw Hill, and Amplify, which is what the county uses. Civics, literacy, and Language Arts are all embedded. There is a textbook, journal, and online support. She will request information on the Amplify curriculum. We can also see if the district has extras that are not being used.

Mrs. Laird and Mr. Kahler had conducted the first day of interviews and had interviewed a strong principal candidate and a strong Spanish candidate. There are several more days of interviews scheduled for various positions.

Mrs. Laird has not received an answer from the district yet on how to handle the students that failed classes last year. It is in our charter that we can not retain students in a grade at BEST. It

has typically been our policy that students that fail a class are released from BEST. Due to the challenges of the school year with COVID and digital students, we want to allow as many students as possible to stay at BEST if we can. The classes would need to be made up. Mrs. Laird asked the district if we could have students attend the before and after school clinics to make up work to get to a passing grade for the previous year. But this could only be done for students whose grades were close to passing. The other option to make up a failed class is Florida virtual school. It would be almost impossible for students who failed 3 or more classes to make up the classes required simultaneously to the regular school course load. Those students would need to return to their zoned school. We need to see if the Rules and Procedures were signed by those students parents indicating their agreement to the schools policy on failures.

Mrs. Laird indicated the amount of disciplines reported to the district by Ms. Black did not match the amount we have on file. Mrs. Laird has been trying to get in contact with Jill Kolasa at the district. Mrs. Nienhuis advised we need to discuss the issue with the school attorney.

Mrs. Laird advised a restructuring of the math program. The math teacher had relied heavily on digital platforms for instruction in the past year and placed the Saxon math textbooks in storage. Mrs. Nienhuis has reviewed the states BEST standards. The Saxon math program we have traditionally used will meet those standards. She will connect with the math teacher to reinstate that program.

All offices were vacated and elections conducted. Patricia Laird was nominated as Chairperson by Rhonda Nienhuis, seconded by Jason Kahler. Carried Unanimous. Rhonda Nienhuis was nominated by Jason Kahler as Vice chair, seconded by Patricia Laird. Carried Unanimous. Jason Kahler nominated Fairella Cook as secretary. She declined. Patricia Laird nominated Jason Kahler, Rhonda Nienhuis seconded. Carried Unanimous.

The next meeting will be held August 9th at 4pm via zoom.

Meeting adjourned 11:31 am.

Patricia Laird
Board Chairperson Signature

8/9/2021
Date