



BOARD MEETING NOTES:

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Apologies for absence: Donette Byrd, Brack Henderson, Mark Yates

1. Welcome (Mr. Gerald Fanion III, Board Chair)

Mr. Fanion welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed excitement about everything STAR has been able to accomplish over the summer. He also thanked the Board for the invitation to serve in the role as Board Chair, and he's thrilled to continue working alongside the rest of the team, the STAR staff, the students, and the parents in this new capacity.

Mr. Fanion announced that First8 has acknowledged STAR's access to move into the pre-K space, which is very exciting news and offered congratulations to Dr. Stephens and the Leadership Team for all their hard work in this area. He encouraged everyone to pause and celebrate this moment within the context of the Board's ongoing conversations about growth and expansion.

Mr. Fanion also communicated that new coaching and leadership training has been secured for this year through CT3 for Dr. Johnson and additional support staff and teachers.

2. Brief Comments (Dr. Ed Stephens III, Executive Director)

Dr. Stephens will delay his Executive report until the next Board Meeting due to his current travel logistics.

3. Academic Report (Dr. Ramone Johnson, Principal)

3.1 Enrollment

Dr. Johnson reported that STAR has 340 students enrolled, up from 280 last year, which is an increase of 20%. The school is receiving calls daily regarding students wanting to enroll. There are 73 students in 2nd grade – currently, the largest grade.

Dr. Johnson is encouraged by the increase in the number of returning students

and is excited to explore the idea of expanding the campus to include 7th grade. STAR has a 98% attendance rate. Several students have been identified as “truant,” but that number has decreased over the last year.

Mr. Fanion asked Dr. Johnson to expand on the subject of truancy. Dr. Johnson explained that there are a number of students who have a consistent record of enrolling but not showing up. He emphasized that the staff is in regular contact with those parents/guardians early on, sending warning letters when necessary, but also assigning mentors to those students to help them learn responsibility and accountability.

3.2 TN Ready Data

Dr. Johnson shared that we have some work to do regarding 3rd and 4th grades. In addition to the TN Ready literacy test, there is now a new piece that focuses on the 3rd and 4th grades specifically. Those students who are performing low will now be considered retained if they don’t perform as they should on the upcoming TN Ready assessment.

STAR’s ELA score has decreased to Level 3 from Level 5. However, STAR has had significant growth in numeracy, so we remain a Level 5 institution. Dr. Johnson emphasized that the staff is focusing their efforts on those students needing assistance in literacy to keep those scores up.

3.3 Academic Goals 23/24

Dr. Johnson reiterated that preparing STAR’s students to succeed remains paramount for this school year, which includes helping them to excel in all state assessments and tests.

4. Operations Report (Dr. Ed Stephens III)

Dr. Stephens shared that the team is actively working to complete the Middle School application, which is due Oct 1st. He had no further updates at this time.

5. Closing Remarks (Mr. Gerald Fanion III)

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Fanion.
Seconded by Mr. Arrindell.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 25th, 2023