



MINUTES

OAKLAND AVENUE CHARTER SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MARCH 9, 2021 @ 4:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Satterfield called the March 9, 2021 Oakland Avenue Charter School Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. at the Town of Oakland Meeting Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Vice Chair Roper gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Laura Campise
 Carol-Ann Dooley
 Scott Fontenot
 Kathy Memolo
 Charles Roper, Vice Chair
 Michael Satterfield, Chair

ABSENT: Jennifer Hunt

STAFF PRESENT: Pamela Dwyer, Principal
 Steve Koontz, Town Manager
 Elise Hui, Town Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes – February 9, 2021

MOTION was made by Vice Chair Roper, seconded by Committee Member Fontenot, to approve the minutes as presented.

AYE: Campise, Dooley, Fontenot, Memolo, Roper, Satterfield

NAY: None

OLD BUSINESS:

HVAC Update

Town Manager Koontz provided an update on the replacement HVAC system for the school. He has received a proposal for the design from Johnson Controls. We are still working on financing; currently looking at the proposal. We are trying to set up financing so that payments are smaller to begin with and larger later on when the school is paid off. Payments would be graduated. Vice Chair Roper asked if this is a replacement of the chiller. Town Manager Koontz said that the

school does not currently have a chiller system. The proposal would be for a chiller system and would have a 10-year maintenance and warranty.

NEW BUSINESS:

Possible Appearance Policy Change

Chair Satterfield summarized what occurred at the last meeting regarding the topic. Principal Dwyer has preliminarily polled the teachers, and they are split 50/50 on the hair issue color.

The discussion points were as follows:

- Vice Chair Roper said that he was not even aware this was an issue until a parent brought up the concern to him. He does not have a problem with uniforms however he does have a problem with us telling kids what they can do with their bodies.
- Committee Member Dooley said that she personally does not really have a problem with it however feels we should keep the policy as is. She said that if we are going to change it, we need to be careful with the policy.
- Committee Member Memolo said that she does not see a problem with kids coloring their hair, we just need to make sure the policy is not too vague so that it does not become an administrative problem.
- Committee Member Campise said that she does not feel that she has anything to add to the conversation at this time.
- Vice Chair Roper said that we do not have to decide today, he is not pushing the issue and wants to make sure we give it good consideration.
- Chair Satterfield said that he would recommend that if there is going to be a change that we make it effective the first of next year anyway, so we do have some time to work with.
- Principal Dwyer said that her concerns are with the economic impact and divisiveness if hair coloring is allowed. Suggests that if it is going to be addressed then feels the language should just be removed and not modified and not made a big deal of. She would like something besides appearance to be celebrated and feels for this age group that it is really not the child's self-expression; it is the parents.
- Committee Member Fontenot said that he would like to keep it where it is. There are lots of clubs for self-expression. He likes that the school has an environment where there is not this type of competition.
- Vice Chair Roper said that he feels the concern that came across came from the child and not the parent.
- Chair Satterfield said that he was against it because he felt it would be a worm hole but after he thought more about it, he sees it as a personal choice. He feels it is okay to open it up and see what happens. If it becomes a problem, then we can revisit it.
- Principal Dwyer feels that we would not be able to go back once we allowed it. Currently the teachers also follow that same policy of no hair coloring.
- Chair Satterfield said he would like to take it to the Town Commission at a future meeting for input.
- Vice Chair Roper said that he does not want this to be a big time suck and reiterated that there is no rush in making a decision.
- Chair Satterfield would like Principal Dwyer to go back to the teachers for additional input and ascertain how they would feel if the hair color language was completely removed from the policy.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE:

- COVID Updates – There have been 15 total kids testing positive for COVID-19 with only 4 of those being in the building; the others were away from the building and at home when testing positive. 4 classrooms have been impacted completely by the positive tests. The teachers are taking advantage of vaccine opportunities. The Fun Run has finished up and there has been an additional \$3000 raised from corporate matching. Another teacher left due to moving to another state. We were able to refill the position pretty quickly. There definitely has been an impact on learning from COVID and virtual learning and the school is trying to work on making up those gaps mostly with math interventions.
 - Vice Chair Roper said he believes there will be a large term impact and you will see the differences between kids that have attend face-to-face school versus those who have continued to attend electronically.
 - Committee Member Memolo believes that you will also see a socioeconomic gap between those who have the financial capability to have a parent fully engaged in the online learning process at home versus those who have struggled with the online process because they have to continue working to make ends meet, etc.
 - Committee Member Fontenot asked if there was going to benchmark testing this year.
 - Principal Dwyer said she is not sure but that there is definitely a need to ascertain where the kids are at with their learning.
 - Chair Satterfield asked if the possibility of kids being held back was taken into account in the lottery selection.
 - Principal Dwyer said yes, this was taken into consideration.

PTO REPORT:

Fundraising Updates

Committee Member Dooley said that there was a PTO meeting tonight. The Fun Run was super successful raising over \$31,000 dollars for the school. She said they were also able to raise an extra \$3500 in corporate sponsorships and appreciated the system being super easy to navigate for making corporate donations.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

No audience in attendance.

SAC MEMBER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Vice Chair Roper said he had nothing else to add; he appreciates the group talking through the hair color issue.

Committee Member Fontenot asked what the development on the back side of the school was going to be. Town Manager Koontz said it was going to be a Tractor Supply store. Committee Member Fontenot asked if there was going to be a fence on the back side of the store between it and the school. Town Manager Koontz said that they would have landscaping on the back side of the property as a buffer.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next SAC meeting will be on April 13th. There being no further business, Chair Satterfield adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:



Michael Satterfield, Chairman

ATTEST:



Elise Hui, Town Clerk