**Facility Schools Board**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**January 9, 2025**

**Venue:** Virtual via Zoom

**In attendance:**

Board Members Present: Steven Ramirez, Mylynda Herrick, Rebecca Carpenter, Carolena Steen, Doug Hainley, Sonjia Hunt

**Meeting Commencement:**

Co-Chair Carolena Steen called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes for December 12, 2024:**

Co-Chair Carolena Steen entertains a motion to accept the December Board minutes.

Board member Ramirez makes a motion to approve the minutes, and Board member Herrick seconds. The Board unanimously approves minutes.

**Approval of January 9, 2025, Agenda:**

Co-Chair Steen entertains a motion to accept the agenda.

A motion was made by board member Ramirez and seconded by Board member Hunt to approve the January 9, 2025 agenda, with the addition of Board dialogue inserted at the 10:40 am time slot; The Facility Schools Board unanimously approved the agenda.

**Public Comment –** Members of the public who wish to address the board must sign up 24 hours prior to the meeting using this link – Public Comment Sign-up Sheet. Presentations are limited to 3 minutes, with a maximum of 10 people.

* No public comment provided.

**Executive Session --**

Co-Chair entertains a motion to enter executive session. Board member Ramirez makes a motion to enter executive session to receive legal advice on specific legal questions related to the facility schools board’s and CDE’s roles in reports about Joshua School pursuant to section 24-6-402(3)(a)(II), C.R.S.

Board member Carpenter seconded the motion. The Board unanimously votes to enter executive session. At 9:47am the Executive Session was closed and Board members returned to the general meeting.

**Board Strategic Plan midyear assessment, Dialogue Refresher,** Virginia Winter & Board-

* Board member Hainley asks how spotlighting a school at county meetings would look.
* Board member Carpenter mentions she is currently providing one to two sentence high level updates in her meetings.
* Megan Coggins mentions Skyline is accepting DPS referrals and wants to ensure collaboration with school districts continues.
* Board member Hainley shared an experience from a recent meeting regarding a particular youth, where he explained what a facility school was.
* Board member Ramirez notes that facilities are mandated to maintain a close relationship with districts to ensure that they can offer the services students need.
* Virginia discussed the importance of dialogic conversation in board meetings and referenced the pre-read sent to the Board/Staff. She emphasized the value of unbounded discussions for learning and team building.

**Accountability/Accreditation Overview,** Judy Stirman & Wendy Dunaway-

* Discussed the accreditation process for facility schools.
* Accreditation involves an outside entity checking if the school meets specific criteria and expectations.
* The goal is to ensure the schools are meeting the accrediting entity's criteria, ultimately leading to accreditation.
* There is no comprehensive accreditation system for these schools at present.
* Larger programs often seek accreditation from outside agencies like AdvancEd, but smaller schools cannot afford this option.
* Board member Ramirez noted that the cost of accreditation was prohibitive for many smaller schools, which is why it was never enforced.

**2024-2025 Accountability Measures,** Wendy Dunaway & Judy Stirman-

* Presented a basic draft template for facility school accreditation reports.
* Three measures outlined in state statute were mentioned: student outcomes, student engagement, and post-secondary workforce readiness.
* Intent to highlight schools' strengths and student growth rather than creating a rating system.
* Board member Hainley raised concerns about acronyms and suggested creating a directory for clarity.
* The process will start basic and develop over time, with input from stakeholders.
* Alignment with district/AEC accreditation.
* The board will continue refining the accreditation approach in future meetings.

 **Board Seat Commitment,** Judy Stirman & Board-

* Discussion on the three board seats that are up for re-appointment.
* Board member Herrick and Board member Hunt will reapply to retain their seats on the Facility Schools Board.

**February Newsletter and Dialogue Topic,** Darren Serrato & Tara Butler-

* The board discussed the February newsletter and dialogue topics.
* Darren gave a brief update on the February newsletter status.
* Board member Carpenter agreed to work on February’s newsletter page.
* Board member Herrick agreed to work on the March newsletter.
* Board member Steen agreed to work on the April newsletter.
* Doug will write about his county perspective and will reach out to the Spectra facility to feature on his page.
* The board also discussed potential dialogue topics for February.
* Tara mentioned future newsletter goals for board member involvement with featured schools.
* Direct interaction between board members and school directors in future newsletter cycles is the goal.
* Accreditation is the discussion topic the Board agreed on as the February discussion topic.

**Facility Schools Update:**

**ESSU Updates,** Judy Stirman**-** Mentioned the State Board meeting was held yesterday, and the Exceptional Children Education Act (ECEA) rules were opened for public comment. Board member Carpenter asked for clarification on what ECEA stands for, which was explained as the state legislation for special education that follows the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Judy provided team updates- Dede Landry, a long-time part-time team member responsible for state assessments, announced her retirement at the end of the year. Dede’s departure will result in changes in roles and responsibilities, including District Assessment Coordinator, for facility schools. Additionally, a new part-time multilingual coordinator position for the team will be posted soon.

**Policy/Operations**, Wendy Dunaway- Met with two Institutes of Higher Education for the work group's third-party evaluation, gathering information for proposals, a vendor will be selected and evaluation and final report will occur over the 2025-26 school year. Updating guidance documents, particularly for Specialized Day Schools, to clarify and improve based on new information and experiences with new sites. Fine-tuning documents related to new funding and approval processes. Four additional sites seeking to become approved facility schools. Havern will present information at the February board meeting, with final approval slated for March.

**Monitoring** Ann/Robin- Ann provided updates on monitoring and graduation activities. One program was visited in December, and monitoring visits will resume in mid-January with schedules set for the rest of the year, subject to potential weather-related rescheduling. The graduation committee will be meeting next week. Robin provided updates on the tuition cost work group and December count data. The tuition cost workgroup will meet on Monday to approve tuition cost guidance documents, marking one of the final steps in the process. Lori and Celina will complete the December count data with Dede's assistance. Robin will then compile this information into a PowerPoint presentation.

**Assessments**, Annie Haskins –Facility schools can now use the system for annual IEPs. Transfers are available, but usage needs confirmation. The ACCESS for English language learners assessment window opens Monday January 13, 2025 for about a month. Approximately thirty multilingual students with limited or non-English proficiency will be tested. Most students will take the alternate assessment due to significant cognitive needs. Annie and Dede will support schools with those assessments. Schools will take full responsibility next year. A new part-time multilingual student support coordinator position was approved.

**Systems Support**, Lori Kochevar and Celina Ulibarri – Collecting December Staff data, with about a third of schools completed. This data aids legislative reporting and shows information on staff retention and salaries. Updating the website as mandated by CDE, involving consolidation and removal of old files. Providing ongoing support for Infinite Campus and tech support for iReady and IXL assessment systems. Extending the IXL pilot program, with positive feedback from more interested sites. Learning the December Student Count collection process with Celina, which is used for important data collection from Infinite Campus.

**Technical Assistance Center**, Allie Miller- Reported on the TAC Hub group's activities, including connecting rural districts with facility schools for coaching and support. Discussed challenges in rural areas, citing a case where moving a family to Denver was suggested due to limited resources. Allie expressed hope for improvements in rural support and excitement about the Hub group's progress.

**Academic Systems Support**, Tara Butler –Reported sending out a curriculum newsletter for teachers, aiming to provide classroom resources and ideas. She plans to make it quarterly, with the next issue targeted for early March. Seeking feedback on its usefulness at upcoming directors' meetings. Begun offering training on IXL, iReady, and other supplemental curriculum to several schools, with 4-5 scheduled in the coming weeks. A recent training session was successful, providing an opportunity to gather direct feedback from teachers and staff about curriculum resources.

**Attorney general update,** Jenna Zerylnick- Mentions that state law requires annual board best practices training and will need to be done in 2025. Suggested the training could be moved to ensure all new board members can attend.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Co-chair Steen Adjourned the meeting.

**Next Meeting Date –** **February 13, 2024.**

**In Person – Spectra – 7205 West 120th Avenue, Broomfield, CO 80020, Late Start 10:00 am**