

Watershed APC Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2020

Zoom meeting

Committee members present: Jarrod Decker, Jason Gillam, Abigail Paul, Amy Arneson, Dave Merrill, Becky Hansen, Moira O'Malley, Carie Green, Renee Rember
Excused: Kelly Mansfield

At least 20 total participants on Zoom (including APC members)

Meeting commenced: 6:01 pm

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and call to order

Jason welcomed all the teachers and parents that attended and explained the purpose for the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Head teacher report

A) Current enrollment: 197 students. Jarrod was approached by another charter school principal from the state asking about decreased enrollment. A coalition of Alaska charter schools in the state may pursue "hold harmless" funding with the state. Watershed's enrollment is only one student below capacity and will not be requesting "hold harmless" funding.

1. 13 new students have been enrolled from the lottery waitlist.
2. 55.3% boys, 44.7% girls
3. Ethnicity report (from PowerSchool)
 - a. 69.5% Caucasian only
 - b. 9.6% Hispanic
 - c. 2% AK Native/American Indian
 - d. 17.3% 2+ races
 - e. 1% African-American
4. Budget
 - a. Watershed received a borough property tax exemption check from its landlord, J&J Enterprises, in the amount of \$49,181.07.
 - b. Approximately \$250,000 of this year's lease has been prepaid. Jarrod will provide an exact amount at next month's meeting when he will give a more detailed breakdown of the budget.
5. Remote learning
 - a. Remote learning has been generally successful with an overall high level of engagement for most students – due in large part to parental support. At this time, according to the teachers at the meeting, there are no concerns that would warrant students returning to the building in person at this time in second grade, special education and middle-school. In third grade,

the teacher identified one student of concern for non-engagement and the fourth-grade teacher stated that she is less able to effectively teach students when they are not in the building.

- b. Jarrod indicated that remote learning is not ideal and also shared challenges about the eventual transition from remote to the in-person hybrid learning model. Charter school teachers will be tasked with providing instruction for both in-person and remote students. At this time, roughly 85% of Watershed families would like students to return to the building. Currently, the decision has already been made at the district level that special education students can enter the building for in-person testing. If parents are struggling to get their child to a Zoom appointment, there is a good chance they would not take advantage of the opportunity for their child to return to the building.
- c. Jarrod highlighted the work by Watershed's counselor, Jennifer Culver, who has been creating SEL (social-emotional learning) videos for students, meeting individually with students and families, and will be providing staff training.
- d. Jason expressed concern about the fact that there potentially may be students at Watershed who, despite the challenges and risks of returning to the building, should perhaps return to the building to learn. In some buildings, students who meet the districts algorithm criteria for being at risk were given a chance to return with the caveat that they are engaged and maintain appropriate behavior or they can be dismissed. Please see additional notes below. The guidelines of red, yellow and green set by the school district seem to be applied somewhat arbitrarily at the present time.
- e. Carrie Green suggested, from a developmental standpoint, prioritizing younger students returning to the building due to a concern about foundational skills. Jarrod expressed concerns like splitting families during the day and emphasized that

all teachers are doing small group learning and individual check-ins on Zoom.

Agenda Item 3: Testimony

- A) None

Agenda Item 4: Action Items

- A) Determine phase-in viability and options
 1. The board discussed the school district's phase-in plan and the possibility to offer a phase-in plan to Watershed students who are struggling to engage with remote-learning.
 2. Jason Gillam moved for Jarrod to develop list of potential phase-in students based on teacher referrals. Dave Merrill seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- B) Determine process for switching from remote to hybrid learning model
 - i. The school district will re-open to K-8 students on October 5 if the community is in the yellow zone.
 - ii. APC members discussed the transition from remote to hybrid. No action was taken to deviate from the FNSBSD October 5 transition date.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion Item

- A) Per request, Jarrod gave a brief presentation comparing Watershed's place-based educational model with the personalized learning model of the FNSBSD. The presentation included an overview of each model and comparative data (student achievement, student growth, and school climate) from the district's data dashboard. Discussion centered around the fact that Watershed teachers already employ differentiated learning and that Watershed's academic program is successful by standardized measures. The amount of screen-time required to institute personalized learning would be antithetical to Watershed's place-based mission.

Next Meeting:

October 15, 2020 6:00PM

Meeting adjourned: 8:05PM