

MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOLS

AT EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2020

Via Zoom

4:30 p.m.

Members present: Mendi Goble, Community Member
Tom Martin, Faculty Member Outside Model
Gerald Tatum, Model Parent
Heather Taylor, Model Faculty Member
Katelyn Upchurch, Model Student
Sara Zeigler, Faculty Member Outside Model
John Williamson, Chair, Model Superintendent

Members not present: Rodney Davis, Community Member
Robin Jones, Model Parent
Lynn Taylor Tye, ECU Board of Regents, ex-officio

Also present: Dr. Christopher Budano, Associate Dean K-12 Programs / Model
Director of Teaching & Learning
Erick Collings, Model Director of Communications
Laura Dedic, Principal, Model High
Peter Edwards, Model Faculty Member
Keeley Gadd, Associate Director for School Partnerships
Donna McGuire, Model Executive Assistant
David Naylor, Principal, Model Elementary
Kim Puckett, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
Melanie Smith, Model Faculty Member
Lauren Tyra, Model Faculty Member

Copies of the meeting agenda and PowerPoint slides are bound at the conclusion of these Minutes.

I. Call to Order

Mr. John Williamson, ECU Dean of K-12 Programs and Superintendent of Model Laboratory Schools, opened the meeting at 4:43 p.m. He apologized for the delay, which was due to a Zoom meeting with school superintendents and Governor Beshear, regarding COVID.

II. Review of Minutes – 9-14-2020

Minutes of the September 14, 2020 meeting were provided to Council members prior to the meeting for review.

Motion was made by Heather Taylor, seconded by Gerald Tatum, to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

III. Review of Items – Good News

Mr. Williamson reviewed some good news, including:

- ACT Scores - Class of '21 Average ACT was 23.5, up almost a full point from the Class of '20. The Class met/exceeded every state benchmark (English, Reading, Mathematics, Science), and one student achieved a perfect score (36 composite and in each of the subcomponents)
- Readiness Report - According to KY Council on Postsecondary Education's state-wide study on the college-readiness of public-school graduates from 2018, Model grads:
 - Have the highest first year college average GPA in the Commonwealth
 - Are the highest percent of students with a college GPA of 3.0 or higher
 - Earned the highest average KEES scholarship money
- Model was awarded two artists in residence through KY Arts Council grants
- Three Model students were winners in the Kentucky Transportation Art Contest
- Athletics successes – the Boys' Golf Team won the regional championship; the Girls' Soccer Team claimed the district title
- Model Senior Nathan Corder organized the renovation of the outdoor classroom, with teacher oversight to ensure compliance with ecosystem needs
- Model was included in a social media shoutout from Governor Beshear

IV. Review of Items – Calendar Update

Mr. Williamson reviewed key dates:

- December 21 - January 1 – Winter Break
- January 4 – In-Person Instruction Resumes
- January 6 – Deadline to Elect Remote Instruction for Spring 2021 Semester
- January 11 – 13 – Secondary Finals for Fall 2020
- January 14 – 15 – No School (Faculty Preparation Days)
- January 19 – Spring 2021 Semester Begins

He said these dates could be impacted as a result of the Governor's afternoon announcement. A meeting with the Kentucky Department of Education is scheduled for the following day. He shared current COVID-19 information for Model.

V. Review of Items – Enrollment Update

Mr. Williamson provided the up-to-date enrollment data reflecting start of school enrollment for 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.

VI. Why do families choose Model?

Feedback/discussion was requested regarding why Model families make the investment to send their children to Model, and what makes Model unique for them. Dr. Martin asked what percentage of Model students go on to college. Mr. Williamson said about 95%. Dr. Martin questioned how that compared with other schools. Dr. Budano said he would check. Dr. Martin said Model students are better prepared for an uncertain future. We represent a first step and start students on an early path with a better chance for success. Ms. Goble said WorkReady Community data would be available the next day and would be a good comparison with Madison County Schools. Mr. Williamson said it is not Model's intention to directly compete with Madison for students. Ms. Dedic said in 2016-17, 54.2% of Madison County seniors went on to college.

Mr. Tatum said relationships is a key factor. People know one another. Ms. Dedic agreed that it is a different dynamic that is not possible in a larger district. The proximity and relationship with ECU were also noted as unique assets. Ms. Upchurch said the closer relationships between students, parents, and teachers make it more difficult for students to slip through the cracks and more likely that someone will care about a student's success.

Mr. Williamson shared some current recruitment strategies including no changes in tuition rates, sharing promotional materials at key locations, an upcoming social media campaign focused on the value of a Model education, and virtual open houses. Dr. Zeigler said more could be done to explore recruitment of ECU faculty children. She said we could explore more effective marketing of embedded university benefits such as enhanced orchestra, German and drama, using shared staff, and dual credit classes in a college setting. Model can provide opportunities that wouldn't otherwise be possible without ECU.

Mr. Williamson said the cost to attend Model is \$3,995, which has been an issue with some parents who have lost jobs during the pandemic or needed the funds to hire at-home tutors.

Dr. Martin said it is a big deal for students to be able to have access to campus – a transformational experience. Mr. Williamson asked if there had been more collaboration between Model and ECU in the past. Dr. Zeigler discussed ECU's upcoming Scholars Week, which focuses on scholarship, research and creative endeavors. Dr.

Martin asked about involving Model students in Coach Hamilton's basketball camp. Mr. Williamson said there are NCAA issues involved.

VII. How do we guarantee an experience that instills the principles of equity, fairness and social justice?

Mr. Williamson shared a letter from the Kentucky Department of Education to the ECU Board of Regents calling on the Board to act to recruit a student demographic to more closely mirror those of the state. He provided a comparison of Model's current demographics with Madison County and the State and asked the Council how Model can attract a more diverse population. Dr. Zeigler said ECU faces similar challenges.

Mr. Williamson said one potential solution is a partnership with ECU Scholar House. He said a diversity, equity and inclusion task force has been established at Model.

He posed the other questions: How do we better reflect the communities from which we draw students? and How do we create a school community that is a true model of diversity and social justice?

Dr. Martin said the Scholar House idea is good because participants must be low income, single parents. Childcare is provided and having the children attend Model could become a part of the program.

Ms. Goble said she wouldn't have considered Model as an option because the perception was that it was expensive to send a child there and was for rich, white kids, but she knows different now. She said videos to inform parents could help.

Mr. Williamson said previous promotional materials reflected diversity but was criticized as not representative of the student demographic.

Ms. Upchurch said it should also be noted that beyond tuition, expenses such as class dues, field trips, etc. can pose issues for some families. Mr. Williamson agreed and said teachers would need to develop different mind sets when planning student activities. He asked if the issues on campus are related to curriculum content. Dr. Zeigler said it was, but also residence halls, community life and other student experiences.

Additional comments included:

- Step 1 is awareness
- Provision of cultural competency training
- Re-adding alumni association names to the mailing list

VIII. Next Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2021, 4:30 p.m., via Zoom.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 5:50 p.m.

John Williamson
Dean of K-12 Programs/ Model Laboratory Schools Superintendent