

MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOLS

AT EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 22, 2021

Via Zoom

4:30 p.m.

Members present: Mendi Goble, Community Member
Dr. Tom Martin, Faculty Member Outside Model
Gerald Tatum, Model Parent
Heather Taylor, Model Faculty Member
Lynn Taylor Tye, ECU Board of Regents, ex-officio
Katelyn Upchurch, Model Student
Dr. Sara Zeigler, Faculty Member Outside Model
John Williamson, Chair, Model Superintendent

Members not present: Rodney Davis, Community Member
Robin Jones, Model Parent

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
Donna McGuire, Model Executive Assistant
David Naylor, Principal, Model Elementary

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

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Williamson at 4:30 p.m.

II. Review of Minutes – 12-14-2020

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

Motion was made by Tom Martin, 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:

- Mock Trial Team – State Champions for the second year in a row. National competition is in May. Everett Parker-Noblitt was selected as Top Attorney.
- KUNA participation and success – Jiali Graham, Outstanding Ambassador; Sophia Hahn, International Court of Justice victory; Hannah Richards, Outstanding Advocate & International Court of Justice 2022 President.
- AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award – 50% of students taking the Computer Science Principles Exam were female. Mr. Williamson said Computer Science is required for all of our students, beginning at 8th grade. Students at the 8th grade level can earn AP credit.
- 253 students in grades 7-12 were named to the fall 2020 Dean’s List.
- Peg Saalfeld-Harris ('81) a great swimmer and part of Model’s tradition, and Shirley Kearns (Athletic Director/Physical Education Teacher) for whom our gymnasium is named, were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

IV. Culture & Climate Survey

Mr. Williamson reviewed results of the employee culture & climate survey for the past three years, noting that the current year was significantly positive in both content and number of responses. He said the survey is used in corporate America. He said it was significant that the average increase by nearly .5 on the 4-point scale. Dr. Martin asked which question Mr. Williamson felt was most important. Mr. Williamson said the one that states that the employee has a best friend at work. He said the high response indicates a bond at work, collaboration and job appreciation. He said this reflected well on employees and school administrators for efforts to improve school culture. He applauded the school principals for their work to give employees more voice and involvement. Ms. Dedic said it was an understanding that we are all working together for the same mission.

V. Model Assessments

Dr. Budano reviewed the various assessments utilized at Model, as follows:

- Iowa, grades K-7 – He explained that this assessment is not part of the State accountability system, but parents like it because it allows for an understanding of how the students perform on a national level. He said typically Model students perform above the national average. Mr. Williamson said the state does not require any national-level testing.
- KPREP State Assessment, grades 3-8, 10-11 – required. Includes various subjects at different grade levels. Provides a comparison with peers across the state.
- PSAT, grades 8-11 – national level, optional. This is offered to all students in grades 8, 9 and 10, and students who self-selected in grade 11. He said students in grades 8 and 9 performed at an exceptionally high level, and all students

performed above averages, in nearly all cases, indicating that they are on the path to college readiness.

- ACT, grade 11 – required, national level
- AP Exams – national comparison; 90 students earned qualifying scores on AP exams in 2019-20. For 2020-21 there are 278 enrollments in 14 AP subjects.

Mr. Williamson said curriculum decisions are based on data. Assessments are used to determine what we are doing well and where we need to improve. If parents want students to be college-ready they need to bring them to Model. Student schedules are adjusted to help them meet college benchmarks.

Ms. Goble asked if it was expected that assessment scores would be lower due to COVID. Mr. Williamson said teachers had indicated that they were about 25% behind, so there may be some dips, but likely not at the same level as other schools, especially those that did not have in-person school. Mr. Williamson said some colleagues had indicated to him that there are students who have not completed any work for the entire year. He said the state is giving districts an option to essentially “restart” the school year, but that would not be an issue for Model and similar schools. He said the loss in learning time would be reflected in the future at the college also.

VI. Dual Credit/K-12 Programs Update

- In Fall 2020, 47 Model students took at least one dual credit class. There were 89 enrollments and 271 credit hours earned.
- In Spring 2021, 44 Model students are enrolled in at least one class. There are 78 enrollments and 243 credit hours attempted.
- Early College – Class of 2021, 10 participants; Class of 2022, 12 applications. Students would likely transfer into a college upon graduation.

Mr. Williamson noted that Model students do not pay additional fees for dual credit classes, and none of the classes are taught at Model. Students attend class on the ECU campus with university students.

- Dr. Budano announced that Daniel Kruger had been hired to serve as the Director for Dual Credit & K-12 Programs.
- Dr. Budano reviewed scheduled summer programs through the Center for Educator Excellence, including summer camp for gifted students across the state.
- Associate Degree Pilot – The dual credit program is piloting an associate degree program with Frederick Douglass High School and working to expand college pathways with schools throughout the State.

Mr. Williamson said expansions and changes in the programs are intentional and geared toward directing students into existing programs at ECU. He also expressed appreciation

to Dean Zeigler and her staff for their collaboration and assistance with the programs discussed.

VII. COVID Update

- Mr. Williamson reported that 87% of Model faculty and staff have elected to receive the vaccine and we are approaching herd immunity.
- Model will receive \$200,000 in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds due to a designation from the Commissioner of Education.
- The Madison County incidence rate continues to drop. Model has had very few cases/minimal impact.
- COVID protocols will continue.

VIII. School Calendar

- Students will begin on August 30th, two weeks after the University begins.
- Model will have a full week of fall break and spring break.
- In most cases the schedule aligns with the University calendar.
- Faculty will work five additional flexible days with a choice of assignments/innovative projects.
- The calendar has been posted for public access.

IX. Online Learning Feedback

Based on an online learning survey completed by Model parents whose children participated in remote learning, 79.5% said their child's teacher provided clear, consistent communication, feedback, and meaningful assignments most of the time, while 15.4% said assignments were adequate, but communication/instruction was lacking (requiring too much parental support). Lower scores were received based on the quality of content. Mr. Williamson said it has been very difficult to provide high quality virtual learning during the pandemic, though he said the ratings had increased from the previous spring.

X. Summer School

Mr. Williamson said summer school would be offered by invitation for a three-week period for elementary students to help reduce achievement gaps. There will also be summer enrichment programs available for those who are interested. Secondary students who received grades of F1 in the fall or spring will be invited to participate in a summer program. Approximately 1/3 of elementary faculty and parents surveyed felt that it was important to have summer school. In general, it was decided that it would be better to give students the summer to reprieve and return fresh, in-person for the next year.

XI. 2021-22 Learning Plan

Learning for next year will be in person. Remote learning is not planned. If a small amount of remote learning is required, it will be completed using paper packets. Advisory Council members agreed that parents and students are ready for in-person learning. Mr. Williamson said expected enrollment for next year is back to previous enrollment levels – 700 students.

Ms. Tye shared that a large district in Florida discovered 8,000 students were essentially “unaccounted” for – no work is being completed. Mr. Williamson agreed that it was a scary situation throughout the country and said he is relieved that is not an issue at Model.

XII. Upcoming Events

Ms. Dedic reviewed plans for upcoming events, in accordance with guidelines, to allow students time to bond including Awards Day, Junior & Senior Formal/Prom, Class of 2021 Graduation Walk-Through, and In-Person Graduation.

XIII. Opportunities for Engagement

Mr. Williamson asked for input regarding community events that should include Model. Mr. Tatum said the MPO is participating this year for the first time in BoosterThon for all K-6 students. It begins with a fun run. Information will be provided to parents in the following week.

XIV. Next Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2021, 4:30 p.m. Mr. Williamson said he would like to be able to bring the Council together in person for the last meeting of the year, but that it would be scheduled tentatively as a Zoom meeting.

XV. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 5:46 p.m.

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