

MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOLS

AT EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

**MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 7, 2022
Model Library
4:00 p.m.**

Members present:

Mendi Goble, Community Member
Robin Jones, Model Parent
Dr. Tom Martin, Faculty Member Outside Model
Tyler Sayre, Model Student
Gerald Tatum, Model Parent
Heather Taylor, Model Faculty Member
John Williamson, Chair, Model Superintendent
Dr. Sara Zeigler, Faculty Member Outside Model

Members not present:

Deanna Frazier, Community Member
Lynn Taylor Tye, ECU Board of Regents, ex-officio

Also present:

Dr. Christopher Budano, Interim High School Principal
Erick Collings, Model Director of Communications
Laura Dedic, Director of Finance & Operations
Donna McGuire, Model Executive Assistant
David Naylor, Model Elementary Principal
Kim Puckett, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

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 4:00 p.m.

II. Good News

Mr. Williamson reported recent successes and positive events, including:

- The Model Boys' Swim Team won the regional tournament and advanced to the State level.
- The Model Girls' Swim Team finished second in the regional tournament.

- In Gauntlet competition, three 5th grade students and three 8th grade students advanced to the next level of competition.
- Four former Model athletes were recently inducted into the Model Athletic Hall of Fame – Chuck Gibson, Dr. John Rowlett, Barb Shafer, and Dr. Beverly Acker Lense.
- The Model Parent Organization donated air filters for every classroom and common area.
- 246 Model students were named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List.

III. Model 2022-23 Enrollment Projections

Mr. Williamson briefly shared data related to 2022-23 enrollment projections. Kindergarten applications have increased by 30, which could lead to adding a third kindergarten class. Total enrollment is expected to increase by approximately 20 students over the current school year.

IV. Collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education

Mr. Williamson said that a meeting with Kentucky’s Commissioner of Education, Dr. Jason Glass, and members of his team, is scheduled for February 16th. The purpose of the meeting is to collaborate on educational research topics including the efficacy of the Model Core Competencies and Transfer Tasks and integration into project-based learning.

He asked the group how to share information about the collaboration with the public. He shared that the Senior Project is the biggest one. It involves an exhibition, written research paper and oral defense before a panel. Each student works with a mentor related to their topic.

Mr. Sayre said he would like to see more focus universally in classes on the project – not smaller separate projects in each class.

Mr. Naylor shared information about some of the projects completed at the elementary level, such as the economics and entrepreneurship event at the 2nd grade level.

Dr. Budano said the secondary program has projects at each grade level which are exhibited at an academic showcase.

Ms. Goble said Model could inform business leaders and community members through the Chamber Chat Show. She also suggested that Chamber Board members be invited to the academic showcase.

Ms. Jones said a continued social media presence is essential.

Mr. Sayre suggested that the showcase be tied to a family night.

Ms. Goble said WBON radio would come and do an interview also.

Dr. Budano said mentors and advisors are needed for the Senior projects and we have had to rely mostly on ECU contacts due to COVID, but would like to expand to community members.

Mr. Williamson thanked everyone for the helpful suggestions.

V. Facilities Planning Update

Mr. Williamson said funding for a new facility for Model is still moving forward in the Kentucky legislative process. He asked the Council to share with community members that the money would be provided through the University. It would not take money from any other projects at Madison County Schools or ECU, rather it would be a special award specifically for the lab school project.

A new facility would have the capacity for 1,100 students. The expected timeline would be one year for design work and two years (or more) to complete the construction process.

Dr. Martin suggested an impact study be conducted to demonstrate how Model Lab School benefits the community. Ms. Goble said there are also two new technology schools in process and there are plans for a new Madison County middle school.

Dr. Martin asked where the school would be located. Mr. Williamson said most likely near the current facility in the corner where the current soccer field is located, in keeping with ECU's roots as a teacher college.

VI. Model Communications Mobile App

Mr. Williamson asked Communications Director Erick Collings to share information about the new Model mobile app which will be launched this spring. Mr. Collings shared displays of planned screens from the app and asked how council members felt the app would be used.

Mr. Tatum said he would use Infinite Campus. Ms. Jones said she frequently accesses the calendar and would like a link for billing. Other suggestions included a filter for events, alumni, donations, and the ability to share events with Google or Outlook calendars.

VII. Additional Discussion – COVID Protocols

Mr. Williamson said nationally the issue of COVID protocols, particularly masking, is split between maintaining the practice of wearing masks based on COVID data and recommendations, and moving forward without protocols. He asked Council members for input.

Mr. Tatum said he liked the present setup at Model. Mr. Williamson said when Madison County is back in the “orange” range due to less COVID cases, the school will switch to optional masking for the vaccinated and required masks for the unvaccinated. Mr. Tatum said recent COVID deaths have been primarily unvaccinated people with other medical issues. Mr. Williamson said students have generally been compliant. Mr. Sayre agreed that it hasn’t been a problem and he didn’t think there would be issues if some students were required to wear masks while others were not.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the November 8, 2021 meeting were approved by consensus, with a correction noted in the spelling of Tyler Sayre’s name.

IX. Next Meeting

Monday, April 4, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

X. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 5:00 p.m.

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