

# MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOLS

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## AT EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

### MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

#### MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Model Library

4:00 p.m.

#### Members present:

Robin Jones, Model Parent  
Dr. Tom Martin, Faculty Member Outside Model  
Tyler Sayre, Model Student  
Gerald Tatum, Model Parent  
Lynn Taylor Tye, ECU Board of Regents, ex-officio  
John Williamson, Chair, Model Superintendent  
Dr. Sara Zeigler, Faculty Member Outside Model

#### Members not present:

Deanna Frazier, Community Member  
Mendi Goble, Community Member  
Heather Taylor, Model Faculty Member

#### Also present:

Dr. Christopher Budano, Interim High School Principal  
Erick Collings, Model Director of Communications  
Laura Dedic, Director of Finance & Operations  
Heather Hasties, Model Paraeducator  
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. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the February 7, 2022, meeting were approved by consensus.

### III. Superintendent Review

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

- Hannah Ramsey is the NASP Archery State Champion;
- Mock Trial earned a perfect score in State Tournament and finished as Runner-Up in the State;
- Four Model students were selected to attend Congressman Barr's Youth Ambassador Leadership Conference;
- The Model production of Little Shop of Horrors is scheduled for April 8-9 at the Arts Center.

### IV. Model 2022-23 Enrollment Update

Mr. Williamson shared enrollment data for the 2022-23 school year, which included three sections of kindergarten and 101 new students, an increase of 23 over the current year. He said he would share the chart listing reasons for leaving at the next meeting.

### V. Hiring

Mr. Williamson reviewed faculty and staff vacancies and asked Council members to help spread the word to potential candidates. He said staffing continues to be a challenge nationwide.

### VI. 2022-23 Secondary Schedule

Mr. Williamson said in consideration of several factors the secondary program would change to a six-period schedule next school year instead of the current seven-period one. Graduation requirements will be reduced to account for fewer classes. He said feedback indicated that students and teachers were feeling overwhelmed and anxious. Fewer classes will allow for more time to teach and work within each class, elimination of the requirements of the 7<sup>th</sup> class, and would allow for more dual credit opportunities due to better alignment of the class times with the University schedule.

Ms. Tye said she had witnessed success with school anxiety when a School Resource Officer had a therapy dog. Mr. Naylor said he had seen success with therapy dogs in schools also but noted that it was very expensive.

Ms. Jones said her son had been concerned about the schedule change but was fine after reviewing the changes.

Mr. Sayre said students have been concerned about the amount of homework required. Mr. Williamson said less classes should reduce the amount of homework.

Mr. Williamson said some flex time was included in the schedule but clarified that it was not a study hall. The time will be used as needed for clubs, tutorials, paperwork,

interdisciplinary, additional help, etc. He reminded the committee that we are a lab school so we will try changes and if they are not successful adjustments can be made.

Mr. Williamson also noted that based on Mr. Sayre's input the number of electives available to students will remain the same, not be reduced.

Ms. Dedic said fewer classes should be better for teachers.

## **VII. Challenges of School Staffing**

Mr. Williamson said adequate staffing for schools is a nationwide problem. He shared results from Model's faculty and staff climate and culture survey for the past four years, which reflect a positive change in survey responses over the period. Mr. Sayre said Madison Central has a program where students can "practice" teaching, which could be helpful for recruitment of future teachers. Mr. Williamson said something similar could likely be offered as a dual credit course.

Mr. Williamson said the faculty at Model had created a scholarship for a Model graduate enrolling in the MAT program at ECU.

## **VIII. Strategic Plan**

Mr. Williamson said Model's strategic plan is aligned with ECU's, including knowledge, innovation and transformation:

- Knowledge
  - Competency-based reporting
  - Research student with the Kentucky Department of Education (project-based learning)
- Innovation
  - Development of a plan for expedited teacher certification
  - Service learning
- Transformation
  - Exemplary school design for learning spaces and school safety

Dr. Martin asked Mr. Williamson's view on master teachers in the classroom like the Finland program. Mr. Williamson said more learning continuum is needed, like a primary school. He clarified that this would not be like the ungraded primary of the past, which was challenging to manage.

He said there would be projects to demonstrate learning across the continuum; more project-based learning.

## **IX. Legislative Update**

Mr. Williamson said provision of \$90 million in funding for a new Model facility is very likely and will be confirmed by April 14<sup>th</sup>.

He said the project would begin with a year of design development. He added that the Burrier preschool program and Center for Educational Excellence would be integrated into the new facility. It is anticipated the project would be completed in 2025.

Mr. Sayre said people are excited, but we need to continue to help people understand that the money provided for the project is not tied to any K-12 funds and does not reduce funding for any other K-12 schools.

Dr. Martin asked if some items in the current facility would be preserved for the new school. Mr. Williamson said they would be working with students and alumni to identify items to move to the new school.

Mr. Tatum said people are just waiting to see if it is really going to happen. Mr. Collings said there had been little communication about the new facility yet since final confirmation has not yet been received. He said once the action is finalized ongoing information will be provided.

**X. Upcoming Events/Other Discussion**

Mr. Williamson congratulated Dr. Martin on being promoted to Dean of the College of Business.

Mr. Williamson shared a list of upcoming events, noting that the end of the school year will be busy. Graduation is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**XI. Next Meeting**

Monday, June 6, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

**XII. Adjourn**

The meeting concluded at 4:52 p.m.

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