

Catalyst Board Meeting

December 14, 2020

Board Attendees: Pat O'Brien, Natalie Doemel (virtual), Susan Moore, Candy Poehls, Anna Krueger.

Guests: Kasey Kaepernick, teacher, Brian Yerkey, principal, Jen Bruce, Associate HS principal (virtual), Kandi Martin, Pupil Services Director

I. Meeting called to order and quorum established at 5:00p.m.

II. Public Forum--no discussion

III. Approval of minutes of for October 5, 2020 meeting

Motion to approve October 5, 2020 minutes by Susan Moore

Second by Candy Poehls

Passed, 5-0

IV. New Business

A. Review of activity report.

Anna Krueger and Kasey Kaepernick both highlighted items in the activity report including the numbers of students enrolled online and virtual. The Catalyst Academy has already had one early graduate this school year. They also have 3 student athletes this year. Twenty students are currently employed in town. Kasey and Anna also highlighted how COVID has impacted learning in positive ways, due to the morning and afternoon cohort groups. Students are doing great social distancing and enjoying the smaller class sizes. There were also two recent guest speakers--Christian Josie from Youth Apprenticeship and CeevSue Xiong from FVTC.

Mr. O'Brien complimented the early graduates and the student athletes. He also inquired about whether the jobs the students are working are career-dream jobs or temporary employment. A discussion also occurred about how the shortened length of the school day and the smaller cohort groups (because of covid) are causing increased success in the building.

Ms. Krueger also highlighted how students are being accepted at post-secondary schools and finding employment that they will pursue after graduation.

B. Monitoring Report

Anna Krueger and Kasey Kaepernick discussed their interest in continuing to find guest speakers to share their careers and experiences with the Catalyst students. Mr. Yerkey also highlighted how former graduates are being taped, so that their career talks can be shared repeatedly with future students. He highlighted several specific former graduates.

C. Curriculum for Second Semester

The curriculum being used is ongoing. No significant changes will occur between current programming for students between first and second semester.

D. Enrollment Process--Mr. Yerkey discussed the enrollment process. The preliminary information was shared with the Catalyst Board in November, so they would have time to examine the documents prior to the December board meeting. Mr. Yerkey discussed how students are selected or encouraged to attend the Catalyst program. Each student's case is reviewed, in

regard to career path, post-secondary pursuits. He explained how the best interest of the student is discussed in regard to age, social/emotional concerns, academic concerns. It is about "fit" for the program. Students with behavior concerns are rarely placed at Catalyst. Incoming freshman are also rarely placed at Catalyst. They have not yet had a chance to experience high school life. There are more curriculum opportunities at the high school. Juniors and seniors are the target audience, because it is the best place for them to make up credits. Mr. Yerkey also discussed the typical student who attends the Catalyst Academy. Many of the students there are credit deficient due to lack of attendance or many failing grades during their freshman and sophomore years in high school. Mr. Kaepernick said the students prefer the atmosphere of the Catalyst Academy with the smaller class sizes, the comfort level and the relationship they are able to build with the staff at Catalyst Academy. That smaller environment is very appealing to the students who attend school there. Mr. Yerkey also discussed the other options available to students who may need other options at the high school.

Mr. O' Brien asked if the group had any additions for the February agenda. No specific agenda items were added.

E. 2020-21 Meeting Dates:

February 1, 2021

April 5, 2021

June 7, 2021

V. **Adjournment 5:50 p.m.**

Motion to adjourn by Anna Krueger

Second by Candy Poehls

Passed, 5-0

Natalie Doemel, Clerk