

## Catalyst Board Meeting

April 1, 2024

Board Attendees: Susan Moore, Natalie Doemel, Jo Collar, Connie Neely, Kasey Kaepernick

Guests: Scott Bleck, District Administrator; Brian Yerkey, Principal; Kandi Martin, Pupil Services Director; Emily Marcus, Catalyst Teacher

Absent: None

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- I. **Public forum**—Two current students from Catalyst Academy attended—Ann and Preston (current Catalyst Students). These students spoke during the public forum to share their personal experiences with the Catalyst Board. Both students shared experiences from their time at Catalyst. They highlighted how the experiences have changed their high school trajectory and their ability to graduate. Both students highlighted how they recovered and advanced on their credits allowing them to graduate early and find a work/life balance. The students shared how their adult relationships at Catalyst were a factor for success as well as the blend of online vs. in person instruction. Both students are successfully employed. Both students have work-release with a shortened schedule.

- II. **Meeting called to order and a quorum was established at 5:20 p.m.** A quorum of the board was established with 5 of 5 members present.

- III. **Motion to approve minutes from February 05, 2024**

Motion from Natalie Doemel, second from Jo Collar—motion approved and passed 5-0.

- IV. **New Business**

- A. **Catalyst Academy Charter Agreement with the District**

Scott Bleck shared the status of the Catalyst Shared Agreement, the School District of New London School Board approved and signed the Catalyst Charter agreement at their March 25, 2024 meeting. The Catalyst Board moved to approve to also sign the agreement. Jo Collar made a motion to approve, seconded by Natalie Doemel to approve. Motion passed 5-0.

- B. **Monitoring Report**

Emily Marcus shared the monitoring report, course offerings and volunteer offerings thus far for the 2023-24 school year. Twelve out of sixteen seniors have already completed all requirements for graduation. Two are on track to graduate at the end of the year. Four juniors are preparing to take the GED next school year to make up credits and prepare for the workforce through work release and/or YA in their senior year. All of the juniors are expected to graduate early or on time next year.

Students currently enrolled:

- 25 students enrolled
  - 4 Freshman
  - 6 Sophomores
  - 11 Juniors
  - 4 Seniors
  - 48% of students are employed
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Credit celebrations

25 credits recovered since February 5, 2024 via Edgenuity, Independent Studies and Work Books.

GEDO2

One student passed the Science GEDO 2 test

One additional student is currently studying for the GEDO 2 and plans to take it before the school year ends.

Ongoing volunteer opportunities

- Food Pantry (See SDNL Facebook page for pictures)
- Job Shadows (various dates in the next two months)
- Attendance incentive at Taquero Luciana for students with 6 weeks of perfect attendance during Quarter 3 (April 2, 2024)
- 4K Outreach on April 12th

Highlights

- Mrs. Thorpe's One-on-One work with specific students
- Student perspectives on Catalyst
- Spelunking with Mrs. Marcus
- Smoothie Day and Grocery Shopping
- Hatten Park and River Walks (Around 2 miles)
- Friday Morning Building Meeting
- Familiar Grounds Walk
- Food Pantry Support
- IXL Testing
  - Diagnostic information for each student so that we can monitor progress throughout the school year. IXL also allows us to create individualized learning plans for each student in Math and English.
- Reflective Circle During Contemporary Issues
- Tuesdays @ 10:30 a.m. with Ms. Marsh

Emily also shared academic highlights involving Integrated Math, General English, Language Arts Lab, Life Skills, Contemporary Issue, Edgenuity and Student Relationships.

Both Emily Marcus and Kasey Kaepernick shared that Restorative Practices training has had a large impact on the Catalyst Academy.

Kasey and Emily also shared some specific instances of recent student successes in their careers and their post-secondary education plans.

**C. Upcoming Events**

Emily Marcus shared the upcoming calendar of events:

Food Pantry

Job Shadows

Attendance Incentive

4K Outreach on April 12th

**D. Reminder of remaining schedule for 2023-24 school year**

- June 3, 2024  
The school board requested that the June 3, 2024 be a “paper meeting”;  
Natalie Doemel made a motion, seconded by Jo Collar, unanimously approved 5-0.

Potential meeting dates recommended for the 2024-25 school year:

October 7, 2024

December 2, 2024

February 3, 2024

April 7, 2025

June 2, 2025

Motion made by Jo Collar and seconded by Connie Neely to approve the meeting schedule for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

**E. Upcoming requests from the Board**

The Board requested that Emily and Kasey prepare more student testimonials and success stories as well as senior success stories with the school board.

**V. Adjournment**

**Adjournment at 5:49 p.m.**

Motion to adjourn by Connie Neely

Second by Connie Natalie Doemel

Passed, 5-0

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Connie Neely, Clerk