



**Board of Directors**  
**Minutes of Meeting (full audio recording available at ECHS website)**

Regular Monthly Board Meeting		
12.10.2020	5:21pm	Zoom Virtual Meeting
Facilitator	Marsha Horton, Board President	
Note taker	Nyia McCants, ECHS Recording Secretary	
Board Members Present	Dr. Marsha Horton, Ms. Dayna Cobb, Ms. Dara Savage, Ms. Sandy Spangler, Dr. Evelyn Edney, Dr. Nyia McCants, Ms. Robin Demby, Ms. Lois Hobbs, Ms. Juanita Wilson, Mr. Charles McDowell Ms. Crystal Gillis	
Board Members Absent	Ms. Ayeda Silent, Mr. Ronald Pinkett, Ms. Saphria Gibbons, Ms. Paige Chapman, Ms. Mahogany George	
Other Attendees	No other attendees	
Approval of Agenda	<b>Motion adopt the agenda - Savage</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Demby</b> <b>YES- Horton, Cobb, Savage, Spangler, Demby, Hobbs, Wilson, Gillis</b> <b>NO- None</b> <b>Motion unanimously approved.</b>	
Approval of Meeting Minutes	<b>Motion to approve October 22, 2020 meeting minutes – Wilson</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Hobbs</b> <b>YES- Horton, Cobb, Savage, Spangler, Demby, Hobbs, Wilson, Gillis</b> <b>NO- None</b> <b>Motion unanimously approved.</b>	
Public Comment		
3 minutes per speaker		
Comments	No public comments.	
Personnel Committee		
	Juanita Wilson, Chairperson	
Comments	No report.	
Finance/Facilities (F/F) Committee		
	Ayeda Silent , F/F Chairperson	

Comments	<p>Dr. Horton presented the report. The web report was approved by the committee. The financial records show that ECHS is showing as surplus and will pay another \$100,000 on the line of credit. The updates regarding enrollment and SAT testing will be provided during the Academic Affairs report.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Finance/Facilities recommendation to pay \$100,000 on the line-of-credit – Horton 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hobbs <b>YES- Horton, Cobb, Savage, Spangler, Demby, Hobbs, Wilson, Gillis</b> <b>NO- None</b> <b>Motion unanimously approved.</b></p>
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	
	Lois Hobbs, Chairperson
Comments	No report.
<b>Fund Development Committee</b>	
	Ronald Pinkett, Chairperson
Comments	No report.
<b>Academic Affairs Committee</b>	
	Sandra Spangler, Chairperson
Comments	<p>Ms. Spangler presented the report.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Academics for ECHS Expansion Dr. Edney presented timeline</li> <li>2. SAT Updates SAT Prep to begin January with DSU, targeting Juniors ELA and math instructors being tapped to help with subject content for targeted students</li> <li>3. Attendance 97.27% average between 1st and 2nd marking period. Staff reviews regularly. Typically attendance averages between 92-94%.</li> <li>4. College Readiness Data Dr. Edney presented College readiness data for 1st MP interim 1st MP and 2nd MP 2nd Marking Period: 62% 9th, 59.6% 10th, 61.3% 11th, 62.4% whole school.</li> <li>5. Spring Testing Four live testing dates in March/April: Grade 9 PSAT SAT 11th DESSA Science (Biology) and Social Studies (U.S. History) ECHS will pilot SAT online for the state along with some other schools.</li> </ol>
<b>Audit Committee Report</b>	
	Charles McDowell, Chair
Comments	No report.
<b>School Leader Report</b>	
	Evelyn Edney, School Leader
Comments	<p>Dr. Edney presented the report. Highlights:</p> <p>Enrollment: September 30<sup>th</sup> unit count – 399 students ECHS is holding virtual Open Houses this year. Twenty-two applications have been received thus far. That is down by 57 from last year at this time. There are two more planned before applications close in January.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptance videos will go out on January 15</li> <li>• There will be five Hornet Hello Registration sessions</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Professional Development:</b> The staff meet every Friday from 1:00p-3:00 after the morning supplemental education with the students. The staff time is used for: staff meeting, grade level professional learning communities, professional development (facilitated by internal and external people), and grading day.</p> <p><b>Academics/Attendance:</b> Ms. Spangler shared the academic and attendance data during the academic affairs committee report.</p> <p><b>Student Activities:</b> ECHS has been holding spirit days (virtually). Our last day was Halloween Costume Day. Hornets in Action (student volunteer club) has participated in events to benefit the entire state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Virtual Halloween Made cards for children at St. Jude’s</li> <li>o Turkey Drive—Made cards for seniors living residents to accompany turkeys donated through statewide Students in Action</li> <li>o Mobile Food Pantry volunteers—Worked at Mobile Food Pantry at ECHS for both ECHS families and community members, which was co-sponsored by Communities in Schools and Delaware Food Bank</li> </ul> Each Grade Level has had a spirit night <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Freshmen—Game Night</li> <li>o Sophomore—Paint Night</li> <li>o Juniors—Music Bingo Night</li> <li>o Seniors—Movie Night (Slated for December 11 in the AMC theater with 18 students in a theater to themselves, socially distanced and with masks).</li> </ul> ECHS is planning a leadership training for the class officers in January Activity Advisors meet monthly to coordinate events</p> <p><b>Parents/Community:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PTSA held meeting was held on October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 23 via Zoom Conferencing. Immediately after each meeting, Parent Academy was held with the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Guidance team (Mrs. Prophet-Brinkley, Ms. Collins, Mrs. Spence, along with the Guidance Interns) did a presentation for parents on Preparing Students for College: What You Should be Doing at Each Grade Level</li> <li>o The Center for Child Development did a presentation entitled, “Monitoring Your Teen: Looking for Signs of Anxiety and Depression”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECHS is working with DSU Facilities on a few leaks from the ceilings of a few rooms, mold smell in the Multipurpose Room, and the temperatures in the Atrium.</li> </ul> </p> <p><b>Upcoming Events</b> 12/7/20-12/11/20 DSU Finals 12/11/20 &amp; 12/14/20 ECHS Finals 12/16/20-01/11/21 Winter Break (Students) 01/04/21-01/08/21 Staff Professional Development 01/11/21-01/14/21 START 2nd Semester 01/18/21 MLK Jr. Day, No School; Offices Closed 01/19/21 All Grades Report &amp; DSU Classes Begin</p> <p>Dr. Horton acknowledged all ECHS staff for staying focused and keeping school moving through the pandemic.</p> <p>Mrs. Savage added that several students have been exempt from final exams because of their high class average and they have still been asking to come to class.</p> <p>Dr. Edney explained that students who have an overall class average of 95% or higher at the end of the semester are able to be exempt from taking the final exam.</p> <p>Dr. Edney shared a powerpoint presentation to discuss the Expansion Grant and Charter Modification Application.</p>
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<b>Teacher Report</b>	
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	Dara Savage, Teacher Representative
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Comments	Mrs. Savage presented the report. School level:
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	<p>Teachers are wrapping up grades in preparation for final exams. The staff is very appreciative to Dr. Edney for making a decision regarding returning to school so that we can begin to plan appropriately.</p> <p>We had quite a bit of fun on Jersey Day, and Tacky Holiday Sweater Day is Dec. 10.</p> <p>Classroom level: Teachers are continuing to build relationships with students even in this virtual setting. Students are progressing, despite popular opinion. Teachers are using current events and trending topics to keep students engaged while ensuring the standards are mastered.</p> <p>The new teachers are working through the mentoring requirements as best they can – it is a challenge during a normal school year, and this school year makes the challenge a bit more difficult.</p> <p>Technology: Facebook: Eight new likes, reached 914 people (down 29%), and nine check ins (up 200%). Instagram: reached 243 people (up 8.9%), 78 interactions (up 200%) Plan: create a social media calendar to generate two posts per week.</p>
<b>Student Report</b>	
	Mahogany George, Student Representative
Comments	Written report provided to board members.
<b>Parent Report</b>	
	Saphria Gibbons, Parent Representative
Comments	No report provided.
<b>Discussion/Action Items</b>	
Comments	<p>Charter Modification Application/Expansion Grant – Presented by Dr. Edney</p> <p>Grade Configuration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Proposed new grade configuration – 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades</li> </ul> <p>Enrollment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o ECHS is applying to add two more grades (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) to the current configuration for an increase in enrollment from 425 to 625 students. The plan is to enroll 100 students in each new grade level. However, Early College would enroll 75 students each for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades during the first year and then increase to 100 students for each grade level.</li> </ul> <p>Timeline for adding grades:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modification Approval January 2021</li> <li>• Marketing Announcements February 2021-January 2022</li> <li>• School Choice Applications November 2021-January 2022</li> <li>• Lottery/Invitations January 2022</li> <li>• Hornet Hello Registration January 2022-March 2022</li> <li>• Orientation for both grades August 2022</li> <li>• School Start 2022</li> </ul> <p>Name</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The name would change from Early College at DSU with two divisions, Early College Middle and Early College High.</li> </ul> <p>Location (Pending)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o There may be a change in facility location pending the approval of DSU acquiring Wesley. If this occurs, Early College may be moved from DSU Living and Learning Commons to the DSU Wesley Campus.</li> </ul> <p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o ECHS is seeking to develop a stronger student in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades to prevent attrition in the upperclassmen grades.</li> </ul> <p>ECHS administration and financial consultant met to review the financial feasibility to add middle grade levels. ECHS applied for and was awarded a \$750,000 Expansion grant to plan and start-up the middle school. The five-year financial plans do not include the expansion grant to ensure financial sustainability of adding middle grade levels.</p> <p>Dr. Edney reviewed the transportation analysis and future transportation plans. ECHS is reorganizing the bus hub stops and planning to offer more public transportation passes.</p> <p>Ms. Hobbs shared that DSU is considering Early College High School as they are looking at buildings at the Wesley site.</p> <p>Dr. Horton shared that she and Dr. Edney met with DSU administration to inform DSU of the plans for ECHS expansion and to keep ECHS in mind during the space utilization study of DSU main campus and the Wesley site.</p>

	<p><b>Motion for the approval for ECHS to submit the Charter School Modification application – McDowell</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Hobbs</b> <b>YES – Horton, Cobb, Savage, Spangler, Demby, Hobbs, Wilson, Gillis, McDowell</b> <b>NO – None</b> <b>Motion carries.</b></p>
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**New Business – Charter Modification Application**

**Information Items – None**

**Announcements –**

Dr. Edney shared that there is still time to give to the ECHS Needy family fund. If you are still interested let Dr. Edney know. For those that do give will receive a tax donation letter.  
Dr. Horton thanked the board for their service this year.

**Motion to adjourn – McDowell**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Wilson**

**YES – Horton, Cobb, Savage, Spangler, Demby, Hobbs, Wilson, Gillis, McDowell**

**NO – None**

**Motion carries.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:17pm**

**Next Board meeting will be on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 5:15pm.**

Minutes submitted by – Nyia McCants