



**MINUTES
OAKLAND AVENUE CHARTER SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 9, 2021 @ 4:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Satterfield called the February 9, 2021 Oakland Avenue Charter School Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. at the Town of Oakland Meeting Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Committee Member Hunt gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Laura Campise
 Carol-Ann Dooley
 Scott Fontenot
 Jennifer Hunt
 Kathy Memolo
 Michael Satterfield, Chair

ABSENT: Charles Roper, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Pamela Dwyer, Principal
 Steve Koontz, Town Manager
 Elise Hui, Town Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes – January 12, 2021

MOTION was made by Committee Member Hunt, seconded by Committee Member Fontenot, to approve the minutes as presented.

AYE: Campise, Dooley, Fontenot, Hunt, Memolo, Satterfield
NAY: None

NEW BUSINESS:

HVAC Update

Town Manager Koontz provided an update on the replacement HVAC system for the school. The estimated cost to replace the HVAC system is \$2-3 million. We are currently working with Johnson Controls to develop a plan for replacement. We are still paying on the original bond for the school. We have looked at Sourcewell for financing, but they have a 14% interest rate for financing so are looking at alternative options. Vice Mayor Satterfield says that he believes that we are 1 ½ to 2 years out to having this get completed.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE:

- COVID Updates – OACS is currently up to 8 cases of COVID with 4 of those having been in the building and 4 of those having been outside of the building. The school is gearing up for the Fun Run. They are going to have 2 tracks to allow them to run in cohorts.

PTO REPORT:

Fundraising Updates

Member Dooley reported that 66 members showed up on Zoom for the January PTO meeting. The PTO is hoping for \$25,000 from the Fun Run. They are tracking along with the amount raised last year without having the Gala so that is great. The annual father/daughter and mother/son dances will be moving to a more family centered event this year. The Megablast and Boosterthon have both been well run events, fun and safe.

Vice Mayor Satterfield asked if there has been any thought into what funds may go to this year? Principal Dwyer said that the PTO always asks. Last year the funds were put toward new classroom technology so they might expand on that more this year. The PTO also contributed to a new cafeteria floor in past years.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

No audience in attendance.

SAC MEMBER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Member Dooley asked the group to let them know anything else they can help out with. Member Fontenot said he would like to know more about the HVAC funding and see if he can assist in some way. Town Manager Koontz said the town owns the school and charges the school rent; we may need to look at other options on how to pay for the new HVAC system.

Chair Satterfield said that Vice Chair Roper who is not at the meeting wants to bring up the issue of hair color for the students. Principal Dwyer polled the teachers, and they are split 50/50 on the hair issue color. Chair Satterfield said that we will let Vice Chair Roper talk more about the issue at a future meeting but he wanted to give the group a heads up so they can think about it as he will let them make the final decision. We will table to the topic to our next meeting. Chair Satterfield went on to say that personally his original opinion would have been no but then after additional reflection he reconsidered his position and is currently on the fence

with his opinion. Member Memolo said that she is also on the fence as she can see both sides of the issue. Member Campise said that she feels that in order for hair to be a vibrant color that would be a distraction that she feels it probably wouldn't be something that a lot of parents would do with their kids under 5th grade due to the time and cost involved. Member Memolo said that she is pro uniform because she feels it evens out the playing field. Member Hunt asked Principal Dwyer about her thought on the policy. Principal Dwyer noted that hair color policy has existed for many years, the only change that she made was to clarify the policy so there is no room for questions. Principal Dwyer noted her belief that hair color concerns are not about distraction in class, it is about finding self-expression in something other than appearance. Uniforms are a great equalizer and allow students to find themselves in choices beyond looks and status. Chair Satterfield stated that he has a lot of respect for Vice Chair Roper and if he brought up the issue then he feels we should look into it. Principal Dwyer says that we need to be careful because any unclear policy that leaves it open to interpretation is problematic. Member Campise said that she was doing some research on the issue and some other examples that she saw from others school left it open to interpretation; this could be a problem. Chair Satterfield said that at the next meeting we will listen to what Charlie has to say and then if deciding to go forward, it will go to Town Commission from there. Member Fontenot said that he feels that if any topic is going to be brought up at a meeting that needs additional thought that it would be good to be brought up in advance to Pam or Elise for the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next SAC meeting will be on March 9th. There being no further business, Chair Satterfield adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:



Michael Satterfield, Chairman

ATTEST:



Elise Hui, Town Clerk