

## **Carolus Online Academy Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: July 24, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by John Pallasch.

### **Attendance**

The following members were present:

- Pam Sieger
- Betsy Carpentier
- John Pallasch
- Eric Mack
- Chad Long
- Jackie Reed
- Katie Gomersall
- Scott Sides
- Brandi Beavers
- Demi McGloin
- Dave Hanley
- Candice Dennis
- Kristen Bell

Jackie Reed

### **Quorum Yes**

### **III. Approval of Minutes from June Meeting (not approved)**

Motion to approve: moved to August to approve June and July

## Introductions

Introductions were made to the new board members present: Dave Hanley and Candice Dennis. Each person present introduced themselves to Dave and Candice. Dave and Candice introduced themselves to the Board along with their backgrounds. New board members were introduced to the group.

## Action Agenda Items:

Pam asked the Board to vote on the following:

Voting on service animal, voting on attendance policy update, and voting on employee and student handbooks, John stated to hold on voting until all members were present during 8/21/2025 Board meeting. Pam reminded everyone where the voting items were located and that we would revisit the voting items in August. Pam reviewed the policy updates as a reminder from the previous Board meeting and made note to request to vote in August.

## Reports

Pam shared the updates to the budget with the Board on behalf of Chad and Tom who were unable to attend. Pam uploaded the documents prior to the meeting. Pam stated that Erik and Betsy met with finance to discuss the Board budget and that it was approved. No questions were asked. Pam reminded the Board where the updated budget was located in the One Note. Pam also took the new board members present on a tour of the One Note.

Pam introduced Brandi Beavers and Demi McGloin. Brandi is new to the team from another Stride school in Georgia as the Social Worker and Grants Coordinator. Demi was reintroduced in her new role as the Operations Manager of the school. The Board welcomed and congratulated them in their roles.

Pam shared the preliminary results of from SC Ready and EOCs for the 2425SY. She stated that the school would earn an unsatisfactory in year one from High School and that the grad rate closed at 44%, and 3 of the 4 EOCs showed that students were not proficient. The only proficient score earning the school points in EOCs was reading. Pam also shared that SC Ready preliminary scores indicated that the school would receive a second unsatisfactory school grade in a row which would put the school at risk for closure in k-8 if the school were to receive a failing grade during the 2526SY. Pam shared that the Math scores fell from the previous year and that students struggled in Math and that this was systemic across the school. Pam shared what the plan for improvement was and gave the Board the plan in the One Note with the concentration on instruction, teacher and student accountability, strict attendance, iReady usage with progress monitoring, MTSS/RTI, and tutoring from Sylvan and K12. Pam shared that the goal was to receive a C during this current school year but that earning the equivalent to a D in 3-5 and 6-8 would save the school from closure.

Pam updated the Board that k-2 has open **enrollment** and that 3-12 grade was on a self-imposed cap to make improvements to academic improvement. The Board appreciated the update and stated that this was a good call to make for the students at COA.

Pam also shared the **hiring** update at the school and that 6 positions were open in High School. The team is working on filling the positions and would update the Board in August.

Pam shared that the DCAP for Special Education was lifted and that Jackie and Pam met with Susan Howard from the District to discuss Special Education. Susan emailed Pam and Jackie to share that the DCAP had been satisfied. Jackie will continue to ensure that SE/SP is compliant at COA and we will update the board in August.

Pam reminded the Board that the Back to School/One-year Carolus Cares anniversary was at the school office on 8/15/2025 from 11 until 2. She welcomed the Board and District to attend the celebration. Pam shared that she is excited for the year and is hopeful for improvement with the leadership team working at COA. Scott stated that there is a concern that the school could close and there is a 10 month critical watch on the school and that all efforts must be made. Pam agreed as did the Board.

### **Next Steps / Upcoming Items**

At the next board meeting, the board will review and consider approval of the new student and staff handbooks, the service animal policy, and the attendance policy.

**No Public requests were made.**

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: First: Kristen Bell

- Seconded: Pastor Eric Mack

- Meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM EST