

## **Coffee with the Executive Director**

**August 8, 2020**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Mercedes Alonso, Executive Director, begins the meeting by welcoming the parents. Each parent has the opportunity to introduced themselves and their students.

Parents share their names and their students' names.

Wilma introduces herself in her role.

Mercedes explain what this meeting is a space to connect, share feedback, thoughts.

Mercedes gives a recap of where we are: Governor's decision, the data from the surveys, guided the recommendation to go slowly and staggered the entry of the students. Slowly and thoughtfully. It gives us an opportunity to bring our community. We have to care for the safety and security of the students and faculty as well. How do we do that? It is heavy to make that decision. We made the best decision possible.

Mercedes opened the forum to

Naymah, mother of 2 students and a nurse. She congratulates Academia for the decision. What is the format of the Remote Learning? Will there be in person Zoom classes? Because it is hard to keep them engage.

We took the summer to process lessons learned. You will receive a document this week that will give you an idea of the expectations. This document will give you a deeper dive on to what to expect. All expectations that you would have in person instruction in a remote setting because of our unique curriculum. This week we will be creating how it will look like day by day. We are committing to a communication weekly and that includes providing the class list to the teacher so that they can connect with you.

Question: if the students will be participating in Zoom will they have big group?

Mercedes share that we are trying to recreate the in person. Groups by need. An initial benchmark. Combination of whole group, small group instruction. It will all be recorded.

Tanya: Will they be required to use uniforms? Will devices be provided?

Mercedes answers that having students wear uniforms will be able to wear uniforms. We want them dress out of their pajamas. There will be Zoom etiquette that will be shared and begin to educate our students. We are working very hard to provide at least a color uniform shirt. If you have any need, please reach out to us.

We will give to our students workbooks, art supplies from the Delaware Art Museum and electronic devices.

Wilma encourages the parents to go to the website and complete the survey that is where we are collecting the data.

Lolita asks about supplies for students.

Mercedes shares that we are waiting for Dupont and donations.

Lolita shares that the steps we are taking

We will begin: testing and learning, diagnosing and implementing

Question: How will attendance work?

Mercedes recap from last spring. The participation is mandatory. We are still waiting for guidance. We will track because of our digital platform. The participation is compulsory. We are doing AAACS Remote Learning in our curriculum.

Zula: In 6 weeks, what will happen? Will I have the opportunity to choose Remote?

Mercedes share that in both scenarios we will have the option of Remote only. The hybrid model will be staggered and implemented slowly. The survey will go out again. You will choose again for the following 12 weeks. I believe in the in person, remote instruction. We have great minds working on it, Dr. Shirley Moux, our Academic Dean, teachers and consultants that help us that will make sure that the instruction is robust.

Dean asked if we were going to do lunch bunch again

Wilma answers and explain what lunch bunch is.

Mercedes gives a big shout out to parents for the participation in the survey. 551, 90% parents.

Tanya- Will we be using the bus system? Will it be staggered? A limited amount of kids per seat and bus.

Mercedes shares that we will encourage the parents to car ride their students. We have our own transportation system. Under de CD guideline we can put only 1 student per seat with a mask. Only family members to seat in the same seat. We staggered the buses that would make us hire the buses in full time (green) There's a lot more than meets the eye. Your voices are one.

I think about the NFL with millions of dollars, and they want us to make this opening with restrictions and same budgets. We are doing pretty innovative things.

Other teachers are feeling the lack of care. One life is too precious of a student, faculty and staff is too precious. They will be in front students will be in front of students that have immune compromised teachers.

Wendy- I have a child with asthma. I am scared to bringing him to school.

Mercedes shares that she asked what's the threshold? The State doesn't know.

Mercedes shares that all teachers will be tested before school. An initial mass testing and then every two weeks a pocket of us will be tested. We will be assigned a serial number, swab, get tested. That is the promise from the test.