



## **BOARD MEETING NOTES: Zoom Video Call**

Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021

**Apologies for absence:** Dr. Joe Carson, Mr. Gerald Fanion

### **1. Welcome** (Dr. Ed Stephens III)

Dr. Stephens welcomed everyone and expressed how much the team appreciates everyone's time, efforts, and friendship.

### **2. Academic Report** (Mr. James Johnson)

#### **2.1 Responsible Return**

STAR began on-site COVID testing on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Students are tested at 1pm; results are received at 4am the next day.

There has been one Kindergarten student who tested positive, which launched a 12-step process of securing the health and safety of staff and other students. This process includes removing the student from the classroom, contacting relevant staff members, contacting the student's family, contacting the families of the student's friends, moving the rest of the class to another space before they're picked up by parents, and sending notifications to different State and County entities, each of whom has to respond in order for it to be an official report.

Dr. Stephens thanked Mr. Johnson for shouldering the project well and for ensuring everything goes so smoothly with Shelby County.

Please refer to the tables below for an update on the students' phased-in return to campus and an overview of current enrollment for 2020-2021:

STAR Academy Charter School  
Responsible Return Phase-In Schedule  
2020-2021

On-Site Testing Schedule: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14POygVYPFh-eT80BdC67z62r8LZFL0rm/view?usp=sharing>

Who	Initial Communication Learning Option Survey  Instructional Model Discussions	Confirmation of Learning Option	Classroom Preparation	First Day on Campus	Added to COVID Testing Pool
Kindergarten	January 11th, 2021	Week of January 25th, 2021	Week of January 25th, 2021	February 1st, 2021	February 8th, 2021
1st Grade	January 11th, 2021	Week of January 25th, 2021	Week of January 25th, 2021	February 1st, 2021	February 8th, 2021
2nd Grade	February 1st, 2021	February 8th, 2021	February 8th, 2021	February 22nd, 2021	February 23rd, 2021
3rd Grade	February 1st, 2021	February 8th, 2021	February 8th, 2021	February 22nd, 2021	February 23rd, 2021
4th Grade	February 15th, 2021	February 22nd, 2021	March 1st, 2021	March 9th, 2021	March 9th, 2021
5th Grade	February 15th, 2021	February 22nd, 2021	March 1st, 2021	March 9th, 2021	March 9th, 2021
6th Grade	February 1st, 2021	February 8th, 2021	February 8th, 2021	February 16th, 2021	February 23rd, 2020

STAR Student Enrollment (2020-2021) ☆ 📄 🌐

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	STAR Academy Charter School School-Wide Enrollment Totals (2020-2021)- IN-PERSON							
2	PreK	K	FIRST GRADE	2nd GRADE	3rd GRADE	4th GRADE	5th GRADE	6th GRADE
3		12	10	12	7	0	0	2
4	43							
5	PRE-K	KINDERGARTEN			FIRST GRADE			
6		K-01	K-02	K-03	1-01	1-02	1-03	
7	Boys	Boys	Boys	Boys	Boys	Boys	Boys	
8			5	5	2	1	3	
9	Girls	Girls	Girls	Girls	Girls	Girls	Girls	
10			1	1	2	1	1	
11	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	
12	0	0	6	6	4	2	4	
13	Total PreK	Total Kindergarten			Total 1st Grade			
14	0	12			10			
15	SECOND GRADE			THIRD GRADE				
16	2-01	2-02	2-03	3-01	3-02			

## 2.2 i-Ready Benchmark Assessment II Data Analysis

STAR students should have taken the second diagnostic assessment this week. However, this was rescheduled for Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, since students would only just be returning and the leadership team wanted to ensure everyone was settled. Mr. Johnson will be able to share progress results at our next Board Meeting.

## 3. Operations Update (Dr. Ed Stephens III)

### 3.1 Social Facelift (Ms. Shakia Clark)

The impact of COVID is ongoing and is affecting recruitment of new scholars.

STAR currently has 293 students enrolled – maybe 290 by the time attrition is taken into account. Dr. Stephens expressed that although the goal of 330 students for this year was aggressive, it's still attainable.

There have been many students that STAR hasn't been able to accept, mainly due to a lack of space. Parents like to have siblings in the same school, but if STAR only has space for two out of their four children (for example), they'd prefer to find somewhere else that can accommodate all four siblings.

Dr. Stephens explained that COVID has hampered some of the recruitment efforts (eg. offering on-campus visits and meetings), but it has also opened up some opportunities that may continue in the long term (eg. increasing on-campus students while also increasing online teaching).

Additionally, Dr. Stephens talked about the need to hire a full-time Media Director to help drive enrollment. This person would be responsible for creating digital and print media, graphic packets, and telling STAR's story in an engaging and relevant way. Dr. Stephens would like to bring someone on by the end of the summer.

Ms. Clark is working with Dr. Stephens, thinking through the best way to move forward in this area to ensure the best steps are taken to find the right person and build the right plan.

Ms. Clark confirmed that STAR needs to increase its marketing efforts and digital footprint. She explained that social media is crowded, but there's still an opportunity to share STAR's story in a relevant way that keeps people engaged.

### **3.2 Development Corp Acquisition and Campus Updates**

- Dr. Stephens shared that we finally received approval on the acquisition that has been an ongoing project for a while. He will give more updates at the next meeting.
- The storage facility will be on-site within the next 60 days.
- The safety zone flashers for James Rd have been delayed due to both COVID and technology. The needed items are on back order and Dr. Stephens is chasing this to keep STAR a priority on the relevant people's radars.
- STAR is adding an awning from the east side of the K-2 hallway that will protect students from the outside elements.
- The team is currently thinking through the possibility of transitioning the Sanctuary into a multi-purpose Auditorium that STAR students can use whenever they need to.

### **3.3 Road to 2025 (March Board Meeting)**

Dr. Stephens let the Board know that he'll have some details at the next meeting that help create a larger narrative of STAR Academy's growth.

## **4. Closing Remarks** (Bishop Ed Stephens, Jr.)

Bishop thanked the Board for their time and service. He acknowledged that everyone's time is

valuable and reiterated that we always try to maximize the efficiency of these meetings. He greatly appreciates the level of service that everyone brings to the children at STAR Academy.

Mr. Brack Henderson motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Linda Tharp.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7am