Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: December 20, 2021

To: GOAL Digital Academy Administrators and Governing Board Members

From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff

Subject: December Monthly Updates

General Update

Hello Everyone,

As the sponsor of GOAL Digital Academy, one of the requirements is that the sponsor conducts Onsite Visit Reviews, beyond the monthly enrollment/attendance and financial reviews. The Onsite Visit Reviews must occur at least twice per year while the school is in session, with one review occurring during the first semester of the review year, and the other review occurring during the second semester of the review year. The Onsite Visit Review includes an examination of the school's compliance with all applicable laws, rules, contractual obligations, and academic performance measures.

Besides collecting data regarding the compliance with laws and rules, contractual obligations, and how well the school is doing academically during the Onsite Visit Review, the sponsor must also collect data from a variety of school employees and/or stakeholders.

Prior to any Onsite Visit Review, the sponsor is required to provide the school with a written visit protocol that explains the goal of the visit and prescribed adherence to a specific set of actions or procedures for the collection of data and their sources, types of data being collected, and observation and interview guidance and instruments being used during the visit.

As you are aware from the Onsite Visit Review report and from the attachments that were included in the email sent to you on December 9, 2021, GOAL Digital Academy's first Onsite Visit Review for this school year occurred on November 30 and December 2, 2021. Overall, the visit was positive. There were a few minor issues discovered during the visit that will require a follow-up visit, which will occur the week of January 10, 2022. A follow-up report will be emailed to the governing board of directors and to the school leaders after that visit.

If you have any questions, please contact me. As always, thank you for all you do to support the students and staff at GOAL Digital Academy.

Legislative and Policy Updates

The week of December 13 found the **State Board of Education** holding its final meeting of 2021. Although much of the meeting was to be focused on routine matters, the agenda included two items of interest to community schools in general, and in particular, Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools. The Board was scheduled to consider a resolution adopting rules for Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools
(visit: http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/December-2021/Voting%20Items/ - see three items labeled Item 8: 12/2, 11/30, and 12/3). The recommendation to the Board was to essentially re-adopt the existing rules.

The Board's **Emerging Issue Committee** has been discussing changes to the rules related to community school sponsors. Specifically, the Committee has been discussing rules related to the initial approval of a sponsor, sponsor agreements, monitoring and reporting requirements, sponsor probation, and the revocation of sponsorship. For details visit: see http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/December-2021/Emerging%20Issues%20and%20Operational%20Standards%20Committee/. The publicly available agenda for the full Board meeting, as of this writing, does not include an item for action on these rules.

The **Third Grade Guarantee** is the focus of **HB-497**, sponsored by Representative Gayle Manning. If enacted, the bill would eliminate multiple administrations of the third grade Language Arts exam and prohibit schools from retaining a student in third grade solely based on the results of the Language Arts exam. Schools would continue to be required to assist those students having difficulty learning to read. Prior to any legislative hearing, HB-497 had 32 sponsors/co-sponsors representing both political parties. The House has referred HB-497 to the Primary and Secondary Education Committee for initial consideration; however, since the bill was only recently introduced, no hearings have been held.

The last scheduled Session Day of 2021 for the Ohio General Assembly is December 21.