



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



Date: March 16, 2022

Type of Meeting: General

Board Members in Attendance:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Dillard | <input type="checkbox"/> Marques Mitchell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kanwal Sumnani Lopez | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henrietta Muñoz |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackie Gorman | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Gradney |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George Pedraza | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Abernethy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Frisbie | |

Staff in Attendance:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Akeem Brown, CEO & Superintendent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Daphene Carson, Director of Operations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennipha Ricks, Chief Learning Officer | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alicia Sebastian, Executive Assistant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Damika Burton-Richardson, Director of Student Enrollment & Recruitment |

Guests in Attendance: (Via Zoom)

Stephanie Rodriguez, Charter School Success

Jennifer Barbeau, High Mark

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, **Brian Dillard** at 5:18 pm with a quorum.
2. There were no corrections made to the minutes.
The minutes were approved as presented by acclamation.
3. **Jennipha Ricks** provided the Mission Moment which was an overview of the staff's recent visit to Longview ISD to observe their in-district charter network
4. **Superintendent Akeem Brown** provided the Superintendent's report
 - a. Organizational Health – The instructional leadership team is complete. There will be no additional full-time hires until after July 1st.
 - b. Academic Program
 - i. Staff is speaking to vendors about textbooks
 - ii. **Brown** has begun conversations with TEA about the status and disbursement of the Start-Up grant.

MINUTES

- c. Financial Management
 - i. \$690,000 has been disbursed from City Education Partners through meeting milestones
 - ii. There was a \$150,000 drawdown in December
 - iii. There was a \$217,000 drawdown in March
 - iv. There is \$323,000 remaining to be disbursed
5. Facilities Sub Committee
 - a. There was a detailed discussion of the site report included in the board package
 - b. Jennifer Barbeau informed the board that a delay of opening for 1 year will not cost Essence Prep federal or state funding but may trigger repayment of some local funds
 - c. Construction on the site that we currently have under contract cannot be completed for us to occupy by July 2023. It will most likely be October, November or December 2023.
 - d. The board instructed staff to move forward with the temporary location at Friendship Baptist Church if there were no other options but reiterated that rehabbing that facility was not an acceptable alternative for the permanent location.
6. Finance Report (Stephanie Rodriguez) - The board reviewed the report that was provided in the package
7. Action Items
 - a. It was moved by **Jackie Gorman** and seconded by **Kanwal Sumnani Lopez** that Essence Prep enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the Teacher Residency Program with Texas A&M San Antonio. The residency program would provide a \$25,000 stipend to the participants per academic year. **Dr. Henri Muñoz** recused herself from this vote. The motion was approved by acclamation.
 - b. It was moved by **Kim Abernethy** and seconded by **Muñoz** that Essence Prep enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to work with Pre-K for SA to provide transportation to Pre-K for SA students from the Essence Prep site. The agreement includes capacity building and professional development for Essence Prep Kindergarten teachers. The motion was approved by acclamation.
8. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Prepared and Submitted by:



Jackie L. Gorman
Board Secretary