



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



Date: June 15, 2022

Type of Meeting: General

Board Members in Attendance:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Dillard (Joined at 5:14pm) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marques Mitchell (Zoom) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kanwal Sumnani Lopez (Phone: 6:32pm) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henrietta Muñoz |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackie Gorman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Gradney |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George Pedraza | <input type="checkbox"/> Kim Abernethy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Frisbie (Zoom) | |

Staff in Attendance:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Akeem Brown, CEO & Superintendent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Damien Lux, Talent Recruitment Coordinator |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennipha Ricks, Chief Learning Officer | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alicia Sebastian, Executive Assistant | |

Guests in Attendance: (In-Person)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dr. Raymond Carson (parent) | Mr. Larry Bray (parent) |
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Guests in Attendance: (Via Zoom)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Stephanie Rodriguez, Charter School Success | Deborah Omowale, SAAACM |
| Jennifer Barbeau, High Mark | |

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1. The meeting was called to order by **Chairman, Brian Dillard** at 5:14 pm. The meeting was held at the Davis-Scott YMCA, site of the Summer RISE Academy so the board members could get a sense of the program.
2. **Superintendent Akeem Brown** provided highlights of the written report that was included in the minutes.
 - a. There are 62 children currently enrolled in the RISE Academy program. Of those, 43 or 44 are fully enrolled as Essence Scholars.
 - b. The organization has been in a very tight cash situation over the past month or so. That situation has been resolved by the following:

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- i. We received notice that \$900,000 has been released which will allow us to start purchasing books and equipment
 - ii. We received an unsolicited grant of \$100,000 from the Breckenridge Foundation
 - iii. We were awarded a \$328,000 CEP grant which will mostly be used for the portable buildings
 - iv. We were awarded a \$600,000 grant from the Charter School Growth Fund
 - c. Eight teachers have been hired. We are still recruiting for an Assistant Principal, Instruction, Special Education Coordinator, 4th grade math teacher, and Kindergarten teacher.
3. Mission Minute
 - a. Dr. Raymond Carson, parent of a 3rd grader, spoke about how pleased he is with the RISE program and the school plan
 - b. Mr. Larry Bray, parent of 2 children, spoke about how impactful the RISE program has been on his children in a short amount of time.
4. Consent Agenda – **Mike Frisbie moved and Kanwal Lopez seconded that the consent agenda be approved. The motion carried and the consent agenda is approved.**
5. Fiscal Management – **(Stephanie Rodriguez & Jackie Hernandez, Charter School Success)**
 - a. A full report was provided in the Board package
 - b. 2021/2022 Budget Amendment – After a robust discussion, **it was moved by Jackie Gorman and seconded by Marques Mitchell to amend the 2021/2022 budget as presented by staff. The motion carried. The 2021/2022 budget is amended.**
 - c. Staff presented the proposed 2022/2023 Budget
 - i. Revenue is based on 280 students @ 85% attendance. This results in a refined average daily attendance (RADA) of 239.40.
 - ii. Payroll is budgeted for 220 students
 - iii. The new PEIMS Coordinator started work yesterday (June 14th)
 - iv. Enrollment currently stands at 188. The goal is to be at 220 enrolled by July
 - v. School starts August 15th
 - vi. There is nothing in the budget for transportation. Brown is currently negotiating with Pre-K for SA to contract with them to use their extra transportation capacity on a fee for service basis. Essence is also expecting to receive State transportation funding. Once the numbers are available for the cost of transportation and the amount of State funding staff will bring a budget amendment before the board.
 - vii. **Henrietta Muñoz pointed out that there is nothing in the line item for security and monitoring.** Staff explained that the expenses for

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security and monitoring (line 52) are included in the building maintenance and operations line (line 51). Staff was directed to move those expenses to the appropriate line.

- viii. **Mitchell and Mary Gradney** requested that the board be provided a line-item detail report at the next meeting to show what makes up specific line items.
 - ix. There are no expenses listed for extracurricular activities. **Hernandez** explained that those items are included in the instructional expenses line because the activities discussed occur during the school day.
 - x. **Gorman** asked why there was nothing in the line item for food service. **Brown** explained that food service was contracted with the San Antonio Food Bank. The Food Bank is funded directly for the meals and will deliver them to the school.
 - xi. **It was moved by Gorman and seconded by Frisbie that the board approve the budget with the adjustments discussed which do not impact the bottom line. The motion passed. The 2022/2023 budget is approved.**
- d. Amendment of the Delegation of Fiscal Authority – after a discussion of the standard delegation authority and the importance of following our fiscal policies and procedures, **it was moved by Muñoz and seconded by Mitchell that the board increase the amount that the Superintendent can contractually obligate without board approval from \$10,000 to \$50,000. The motion carried. The amount is increased to \$50,000.**
- e. Ratification of Technology Purchase and Support Agreement
- i. **It was moved by Mitchell and seconded by Gorman that the board ratify the purchase by the Superintendent of 80 Chromebooks with extended service agreements and management from Documation for \$26,722.16. The motion carried; the purchase is ratified.**
 - ii. **Brown** reminded the board that laptops for use by 4th and 5th graders (approximately 180) will be purchased & provided by TEA.

6. Organizational Policy Review

- a. **Brown** informed the board that we must approve a policy that details how curriculum is to be selected by the board. A proposed policy was included in the board package.
- b. **It was moved by Frisbie and seconded by Gorman to adopt the Instructional Materials Selection Policy. The motion passed. The policy is adopted.**
- c. **Brown** and **Jennipha Ricks**, Chief Learning Officer led a discussion on and presented a proposed policy on credit by examination. **It was moved by Lopez and seconded by Mitchell to adopt the proposed policy on Credit by Examination. The motion carried. The policy is adopted.**

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- d. **Brown** presented a proposed policy on Special Education. **It was moved by Muñoz and seconded by Lopez to adopt the Special Education policy. The motion carried. The policy is adopted.**
7. Facilities Sub-Committee (**Jennifer Barbeau**, High Mark)
- a. Full report included in package
 - b. We are exercising the option to extend the due diligence period at a cost of \$25,000. This is important because the \$25,000 investment allows us to:
 - i. Leverage the cost of the road with the seller (\$100,000)
 - ii. Make sure the survey is correct and allow time to negotiate an easement if necessary
 - iii. Submit the plat application before closing (seller will sign) to cut down on the amount of time we have to wait to have platting completed
 - c. **Frisbie** asked that we have some elevation renderings at the July Board meeting
 - d. The portables will be delivered at the temporary site by July 11th.
8. New staff member – **Brown** introduced Mr. Damien Lux, the Talent Recruitment Coordinator. His first day was today. He will be responsible for recruiting and retaining faculty and staff. This position is funded through the Charter School Growth Fund grant.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Prepared and Submitted by:



Jackie L. Gorman
Board Secretary