



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



Date: September 15, 2021

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 type="checkbox"/> Jackie Gorman                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Gradney               |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Dr. Daphene Carson, Director of Operations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jennipha Ricks, Chief Learning Officer       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alicia Sebastian, Executive Assistant        |   |

## Guests in Attendance:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Denise Pierce, General Counsel/ Partner, SHLA | Dan Hernandez, CEO, Charter School Success                    |
| Tom Sage, Bond Counsel                        | Stephanie Rodriguez, Finance Director, Charter School Success |

## MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Brian Dillard at 5:15 pm.
2. **It was moved by Mike Frisbie and seconded by Kim Abernethy to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.**
3. Akeem Brown gave the Superintendent's report. Highlights are provided below; the full report is attached.
  - a. Organizational Health
    - i. Discussion about TEA contingencies and introduced Denise Pierce, Partner, SHLA and Essence Prep's general counsel.
    - ii. We currently have intent to enroll from 283 students in K-2
    - iii. There are 983 currently on the listserv

## MINUTES

- iv. The executive committee will begin planning the upcoming “planning retreat” where the board will revisit the mission, vision, and equity statements.
    - v. Brown presented the Edgewood ISD proposal that was submitted on behalf of Essence Prep on 9/7
  - b. Financial Management
    - i. Brown and George Pedraza discussed our back-office provider, Charter School Success (CSS), and their services. Brown introduced Dan Hernandez, CEO of Charter School Success who introduced his entire team that will be providing back-office support.
    - ii. Brown reviewed the Fund Development Report (attached)
    - iii. George Pedraza introduced Tom Sage, Essence Prep’s Bond Counsel, Tom described the bond process to date and made recommendation to approve the bond resolution
4. **It was moved by Pedraza and seconded by Mike Frisbie that we approve the bond resolution and enter an agreement with the Arlington Higher Education Corporation to issue the bond proceeds to not exceed \$20,000,000. The motion passed.**
5. Denise presented on behalf of legal counsel; the delegate authority resolution submitted by the facilities subcommittee. This resolution would amend the authority of the Superintendent to execute any construction related items (change orders etc.) during construction of the facility. **It was moved by Frisbie and second by Pedraza that we approve the resolution as presented.**
6. There was a discussion of entering into an agreement with Dr. Christi McGowan for instructional strategic planning consulting. Dr. Muñoz requested two other bids collected for these services be attached to the minutes of this meeting. **It was moved by Dr. Muñoz and seconded by Kim Abernethy that we enter the contract with Dr. McGowan as presented. The motion passed.**
7. Denise Pierce provided an overview of the development of the response to TEA Contingencies. Several policies that were reviewed by the board during the application process as templates were discussed to include: Student Discipline, Admission and Enrollment, Code of Ethics, Nepotism, and Conflict of Interest. **It was moved by Pedraza and seconded by Mike Frisbie that we approve the Student Discipline, Admission and Enrollment, Code of Ethics, Nepotism, and Conflict of Interest as presented.**
8. Brown presented to the board the academic committee report and made recommendation after presenting progress on curriculum development; There was a discussion of the following statements of assurances to TEA regarding contingency responses: TEKS alignment and Teacher Training. **It was moved by Henri Muñoz and seconded by Mike Frisbie that we authorize the board chair to sign the statements as presented.**
9. Facilities Subcommittee Chair, Mike Frisbie reported:
  - a. We are still set to break ground October 1 and construction on November 1
  - b. There was also a discussion of the role of “construction monitor” that has been requested by the investor.

## MINUTES

10. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm by Chairman Dillard.

Prepared and submitted by:

*Akeem Brown*

Akeem Brown  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Jackie Gorman, Board Secretary