



Essence Preparatory Public School
Board of Directors Meeting
April 17, 2024
Minutes

The following board members were in attendance:		
Brian Dillard	Mike Frisbie	Henrietta Munoz
Kanwai Sumnani Lopez	Cynthia Warrick	Lucinda Vigil
Board members not in attendance:		
Cynthia Warrick	George Pedraza	Marques Mitchell
	Jackie Gorman	
Staff:	Akeem Brown	I Manning
		J. Ricks
Guests:		

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM by **Chairman Brian Dillard**. The meeting was attended by a visitor and staff.

The meeting, called to order at 5:04 PM, began with a "Mission Moment" led by Ms. Ricks, who highlighted the success of a recent math night. The event aimed to engage families in their children's education, particularly in improving math skills, where students were struggling more compared to reading. The event saw high attendance and positive feedback from both parents and students, emphasizing the use of everyday materials for learning math at home. The success was attributed to the collaborative efforts of the curriculum and instruction team.

The discussion then shifted to organizational updates, including the introduction of new staff members, financial health, and audit outcomes. Kevin Shandy was welcomed as the new after-school programming director. Financially, the school is negotiating a settlement with Mobile Modular regarding a lawsuit, with hopes of finalizing it soon. They have raised \$340,000 so far, with plans to make further payments. The superintendent also shared insights from a recent training attended by board members, focusing on financial planning and strategic goals, such as aiming for 90 days of cash on hand within five years and raising \$2.5 million annually for the next three years.

The board then discussed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the establishment of a foundation board separate from the governing board. The MOU aims to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each entity, ensuring no overlap that could disrupt the school's operations. The foundation will focus on fundraising and potentially holding real estate, while the governing board will continue to oversee school operations. The foundation board members were introduced, including Demonte Alexander, George Fadraza, Diane Warren, and Jim Roper.

Finally, Ms. Ricks presented the academic calendar for the 2024-2025 school year, which was created with input from staff and parents. Despite some concerns about attendance on Fridays, the community favored early dismissal on Fridays. The board voted to approve the calendar, with a note to include standardized testing dates. The meeting concluded with an acknowledgment of a recent school quality review, where the school scored "developing" in all categories, a positive outcome for its second year of operation. The meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM.

Jackie Gorman
Board Secretary