

**Meeting Minutes**  
 Southwest Leadership Governing Board  
 Tuesday, August 27, 2013  
 8:30-10:30 AM  
 Via Webex

**In attendance:**

Harriet Caruso, Board President  
 Mike Gantt, Board Secretary  
 Barry McBride, Board Treasurer  
 Brian Heath, EMO  
 Cole Arnold, EMO  
 Mikii Bendotti, EMO  
 Mark Yockus, EMO  
 Nancey Carter, EMO Board Liaison

**Absent:**

No members of the public present.

1. Call to order and roll call by Harriet Caruso @8:40 am.
2. Mike Gantt made a motion to approve the Draft Meeting Minutes from the 7.16.13 Board meeting; Barry McBride 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so approved.
3. Review the Streets of Success Program—Brian Heath (Information/Discussion)

Mr. Heath introduced Jenny Diaz who presented on the Streets of Success Program, a comprehensive Teen Outreach Program researched and created by Wyman Center (Changing Scenes Curriculum). This is one of fourteen curricula the State will support.

Maricopa very successful in recruitment and retention, with about 98% fidelity to the program. Outside consultants evaluated program and deemed the program to be extremely effective. Also developed a community advisory board and initiated a teen advisory group. Partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. Must have a certified facilitator.

Currently, 96 SLA students signed up; required to complete 20 sessions and 20 hours of community service learning. Harriet Caruso wanted to know if they can speak to other schools that offer it for credit in school to have improved retention with the students, especially since enrolled students need to have 80% attendance.

4. Board Business
  - a. Recruiting Update (Information/Discussion/Action)
    - i. Management Company indicated Ms. Jenny Diaz (Public Health) expressed interest in Board membership based on her work with students in the SLA demographic. Ms. Diaz introduced herself and gave the Board her background information. Ms. Caruso asked if she would like to be considered as a nominee for Board membership. Ms. Diaz asked if the Board was active, and Ms. Caruso explained the Board meets every month and is becoming more active seeking out opportunities for SLA's students. Ms. Diaz indicated she would be very

interested in joining the Board and that she would send in the necessary paperwork as soon as possible.

Barry McBride made the motion for the Board to consider Ms. Diaz as a nominee for Board membership; Mike Gantt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; all in favor, so moved.

- ii. Management Company indicated Ms. Myriam Villareal (Resource Supervisor for DES Children, Youth and Families) toured the school and had expressed interest in being considered as a nominee for Board membership.
- iii. Not on the Agenda, but a person to consider for a role on the board as a student representative is Adrian Vyas. He's currently a student at ASU and has spoken about the Foster Care system in Washington, DC.

Ms. Caruso stated that retired judge Margaret Trujillo is still interested in joining the Board and will be sending her information in to be considered. Mr. Gantt identified Chuck Holinka as another potential candidate who is interested in joining the board, but is currently traveling. He will send his information to Mr. Gantt upon his return.

- b) Logo Decision (Discussion/Action)

Mike Gantt moved to table Action until further revisions be made to the logo; all in favor, so moved to table any Action on the Logo Decision.

- c) Harriet Caruso's transition (Discussion/Action)

Harriet Caruso has joined the SLA team, so the Board wishes to remain in compliance and avoid conflict of interest. CFO of Management Company indicated that by law, Ms. Caruso could remain on the Board as a non-voting member, especially because of her extensive experience in education.

- 5. Financial Review—Financials for July were reviewed and discussed by Cole. CJ Bower, CFO for the Management Company stated that Arizona uses a blend between ADA/ADM for count days which means only those students who attend can be counted.
- 6. School Report—Mark Yockus
  - a. School Update Summary/Overview: Academic achievement and attendance being addressed during assembly and Education Plans. Will have students in on Fridays to receiving instruction for days missed. Set to test 200 students in ELL, then MAP testing, then AIMS testing.
 

Charter Board visited the school to review SLA and observe classrooms. Overall impression was good.
  - b. Student Count is currently at 250 students physically in seats.
  - c. Current Marketing Plan: Open House conducted at the school. Also creating accelerated graduation plans for students aging out.

- d. Personnel/Staffing: Hiring a SPED Instructor as the company identified to provide SPED services (IES) were not sufficient for SLA's needs.
- e. Calendar: Mr. Yockus indicated that a Block schedule has been implemented to emphasize credit recovery by allowing students to obtain 1/2 credit per block.
- f. Needs/Concerns: Offer core subjects and electives to GED student so they could get their HS Diploma or Certificate of completion.

Ms. Caruso suggested the Management Company draft policy for SLA to be able to issue credit in the appropriate area, by statute, for completion of a high-stakes test, i.e. ACT, SAT, etc.

7. Student Achievement and State Reporting—Mikii Bendotti and Harriet Caruso (Information/Discussion)

- a) Curriculum and Instruction is continually being assessed to ensure students are learning.
- b) MAP/AIMS testing is coming up. Scores will be reported once completed, as well as AZELLA testing.
- c) Professional Development

Fidelity is being addressed through professional development so teachers are able to assess the student throughout the day and therefore keep students motivated and learning.

d) State Reporting

All teachers now in Powerschool; this week will need to upload Student data into the State system.

1. Special Education policies/procedures

Mike Gantt motioned to accept Special Education Policies and Procedures as written and posted by ADE; Barry McBride 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor so moved.

e) Accreditation Advanced-ED

Fee must be paid so SLA can be on the list for Advanced ED/NCA to come out and visit to give initial approval for accreditation. Being accredited is necessary for core subject classes to be considered part of the core and not put into electives.

Mike Gantt made a motion for the Management Company to pay the fee to begin the process; Barry McBride 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor so moved.

8. Identify future agenda items. (Discussion/Action)

Additional policies to be brought before the Board. Mr. Gantt asked that all Policies/Procedures and Handbook be reviewed by the Board.

9. No public comment received. Meeting adjourned at 10:40am by Harriet Caruso.

Public Comment Minutes scribed by Nancey Carter for Harriet Caruso.  
###