

## Meeting Minutes

Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

8:30-10:11 (AZ) AM

### In attendance:

Harriet Caruso, Board President  
Mike Gantt, Board Secretary  
Mia Damiani, Board Member  
Brian Heath, EMO  
Mikii Bendotti, EMO  
CJ Bower, EMO  
Nancey Carter, EMO Board Liaison

### Absent:

Myriam Villarreal, Board Member  
Jenny Diaz, Board Member

No members of the public present

1. Call to order and roll call by Harriet Caruso @8:38 am.
2. Mike Gantt moved to approve Draft Meeting Minutes from January 2014 board meeting and Harriet Caruso 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; all in favor, so moved.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Board Business

#### a) Recruiting Update

1. Mr. McBride has resigned but is still in support of the school. Discussed his resignation with the Arizona Charter Board and they suggested he not continue being the Charter holder. Mr. Heath asked that the new chair be the holder, with Ms. Bendotti and Ms. Caruso from the EMO as authorized representatives.

Mr. Holinka asked if it is common for there to be more than one Charter hold and Ms. Caruso responded that it was prudent to ensure Charter Board communications be relayed to all involved in a timely manner.

Ms. Caruso made a motion for Mr. Gantt as the Charter holder and Ms. Bendotti and Ms. Caruso as authorized representatives. Ms. Damiani 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; all in favor, so moved.

Recommendation made to delay voting for a Treasurer until the next meeting so all board members could be involved in the decision process.

2. Mr. Holinka introduced himself and discussed his experience and the skills

he would bring to the Board. Mr. Holinka has submitted his fingerprint card and is waiting to receive. Mr. Gantt made a motion to accept Mr. Holinka's application to serve on the Board, pending receipt of all appropriate documents. Ms. Caruso 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, so moved.

3. Mr. Heath, from the EMO, met with Adrian Vyas. Currently, the timing is not right for him to join the Board as a non-voting, student board liaison membership since he is working on finishing up his Bachelor's degree.
4. Consideration of additional Board members who bring experience that is needed to round out the skills of the Board. Need to consider recruiting at least three members.
5. Annual Retreat rescheduled for **Tuesday, 4/22/14** which will include the regular board meeting, as well. Mr. Gantt made the motion to accept the date. Ms. Caruso 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, so moved. Mr. Holinka will check to see if the previous facility will be available; if that does not work, Mr. McBride would be able to allow for a retreat in his office. MCESA might also be an alternative. Ms. Bendotti will check to see if that is possible.
5. Financial Report given by Ms. CJ Bower, CFO for the EMO, covering the Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows.

- a) Title I and Title II has been billed for about \$40K. IDEA will be caught up in the next month or so.

New budget done internally and will be presented either at the next Regular meeting or the Board Retreat.

New legislation passed not requiring Charter Schools to pay back overpayment from ADE.

6. School Report— Mikii Bendotti/Harriet Caruso (Information/Discussion)

- a) School Update Summary/Overview

- a. Students on the book: 314; in attendance: 207.

- b. Update on accreditation is that a pre-assessment is being submitted today. Staff being debriefed every Friday on what they need to have prepared. No site visit confirmed yet.

- c. Personnel/Staffing

- i. Interim Principal identified-Dr. Greg Fowler who is part of the community, including being a minister in the community which is bringing in more students. He has also garnered the respect of all the teachers. National search still ongoing

and the Board will be involved in the interview and selection process.

- d. Calendar of Activities: Valentine's Day party last Thursday. Basketball is #1 in the State; play #3 team tonight and no matter how they finish tonight, they will finish in the Top 4. Will play on the weekend and hopefully win the State finals. Dates and times will be sent out to the Board so they can attend. Will be playing on Saturday, 2/22; if that game is won, next round is on Friday night, 2/28. If we make it to the State Championship game, that game will be Saturday, 3/1 @6pm.
- e. Lunch program update is that written notice was received from the current NSLP provider and Ms. Caruso will ensure the end date is 3/3. Lunch program will transition in the new school to the vendor who does the catering now; he's very well respected in the neighborhood.

Suggested that the Board discuss either remaining under CSA's NSLP sponsorship for next year or having SLA become their own NSLP sponsor.

- f. Needs/Concerns: phone system. Mr. Heath indicated the phone system only operates on three lines and is outdated and inadequate. Looking to add more copper lines as an improvement providing three extra lines and a conference phone. Also going to try to double bandwidth.

Ms. Jenkins-Bower indicated they are putting in for extra bandwidth and a new phone system and that it has been put up for bid through the eRate process; however, this would not be received for another year. Currently, EMO will pursue a used system and doubling bandwidth until eRate is received.

Ms. Bendotti has asked the P&P be discussed during the Board Retreat.

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

- a) Curriculum and Instruction: Dr. Fowler and Ms. Bendotti to begin 2<sup>nd</sup> round of teacher observations.
- b) AIMS Reading and Writing; MAP cannot be used because of poor bandwidth. Credit Recovery classes also canceled due to that issue.
- c) Professional Development is ongoing; teachers are continuing to improve strategies. Dr. Fowler has presented the first two strands of Advanced Ed for

the SCA. Mr. Gantt asked if SLA could host student teachers. Ms. Bendotti indicated that SLA will as soon as the program is running smoothly.

d) State Reporting: Everything is currently in compliance; just waiting for an issue to be fixed by Powerschool.

8. Identify future agenda items: none at this time.

Adjournment at 10:11 am by board consensus.

Minutes transcribed by Nancey Carter for Ms. Harriet Caruso. ##