

Meeting Minutes

Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

8:30-10:30 AM

In attendance:

Mike Gantt, Board Member

Charles Holinka, Board Member - Absent

Jenny Diaz, Board Member (via phone – arrived on site at 8:47 am)

Myriam Villarreal, Board Member (via phone)

Mia Damiani, Board Member - Absent

CJ Bower, EMO (via phone)

Brian Heath, EMO

Greg Fowler, EMO (AIMS Testing)

Mikii Bendotti, EMO

Nancey Carter, EMO (via phone)

No members of the public present

1. Call to order and roll call by Mike Gantt @8:32 am.
2. Jenny Diaz moved to approve the September Draft Meeting Minutes; Myriam Villarreal 2nd the motion, all in favor, so moved.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Board Business
 - a. Mr. Holinka will be taking a leave of absence from the board.
 - b. Discussion regarding Tara Laurie as a potential member of the Board. She is the Maricopa County Facilitator for Streets of Success Program. Mr. Gantt requested that she come for an informal Board interview.
 - c. Regarding additional Board members, Mr. Gantt has spoken to a few who have expressed interest, however they are experiencing some issues that may delay their ability to join the Board anytime soon. Mr. Heath relayed the intention of the board to gain members from areas of need such as the business community, parents of group homes and law enforcement. Ms. Villarreal mentioned she knew someone who may be interested from MCSO. Ms. Diaz mentioned that a member from the group home coalition might be appropriate.
 - d. Next “in person” meeting will be in January, 2015.
5. Financial Report given by Ms. CJ Bower, CFO for the EMO, covering the Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows.
6. School Report by Ms. Bendotti.

- a. In process of AIMS testing this week. Have begun the process of benchmark testing the students so that we can measure progress. These will be pre and post tests for classes which will also help to measure teachers' success. Ms. Bendotti stressed the importance of getting Career and technical education classes established for the students.
- b. Student count is currently at 317; Average daily attendance is between 175 and 180.
- c. Recruiting for an English teacher due to a resignation; currently have a substitute. Also looking for a math teacher.
- d. AIMS testing this week. A review of the activities that have happened recently at the school. Mr. Gantt questioned if the board may be able to take a more active role if they were to receive a weekly update from the school. Ms. Bendotti said that would be easy to accomplish as we are already doing a weekly update to Mr. Heath and the board members would be added to the list.
- e. Ms. Bendotti is working on the PMP for the Charter Board. SLA is doing small group in-services with teachers based on teacher selected or administration recommended. Friday school officially started and the numbers remained at about 30. The school is working to incentivize this for students and teachers to increase the number attending.
- f. Title I has been caught up with necessary document for last year. This year is up to date and the Title I grant has been submitted and we are awaiting approval from the ADE. Working through an issue with food service. Have met with Leno and a follow up meeting is scheduled.
- g. Evening Reporting Center (ERC)-ROP awarded a contract to provide an evening learning center. Will sub-lease two classrooms in the school building for evenings and weekends. Mr. Heath said the official name will be Rite Path.
- h. Working through an issue with food service. Have met with Leno and a follow up meeting is scheduled.
- i. Mr. Heath would share weekly board report guidelines with the SLA administration

7. Future Agenda Items:

Ms. Diaz would like follow up with the food bank.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 am by board consensus.

Minutes transcribed by Jim Mosley for Mr. Mike Gantt. ##