

# Southwest Leadership Academy Board Meeting August 29, 2017

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The meeting of the Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board was held on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at Southwest Leadership Academy located at 4301 West Filmore Street, Phoenix, AZ. The meeting was advertised in accordance with Arizona statutes, posted on the front door of the school and on the school's website. A call in number was provided for any parent or community member could participate telephonically or in person.

- 1. Call to order and roll call.** The meeting was called to order by Mike Gantt at 10:17 AM. Those present were: Mike Gantt (telephonically) and Jenny Diaz. Mia Damiani was absent. Also present at the meeting were: CJ Bower (Rite of Passage CFO), Dr. Greg Fowler (Principal), Matt Boucher (Compliance Officer), Dane Smith (Food Services Chef), Terry Hines (observer and prospective board member), Mark Hendershot (telephonically and candidate for Board membership), Reuben Olivas (telephonically and prospective board member), Myles Jackson (Lead Behavior Mentor) and Dr. Philip Geiger (consultant to ROP and ROP Director of Education Designee).
- 2. Introductions:**

Brian Heath, executive director for Rite of Passage introduced the following people to the Board and reviewed their experience and qualifications with the Board. He was highly complimentary of these individuals and expressed his belief that this team will enhance the progress and performance of the school:

  - Regional Director of Education - Dr. Philip Geiger
  - Compliance Manager - Matt Boucher
  - Food Service Manager/Instructor – Chef Dane Smith
  - Lead Behavior Mentor - Myles Jackson
- 3. Board Additions to the Agenda:** Board President Gantt asked for any additions to the agenda but there were none.
- 4. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes** from the July 3 and July 13, 2017 board meetings. A motion was made by Jenny Diaz, seconded by Mike Gantt to approve the minutes of the July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 Board meetings as is. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5. Election of New Board Member-**

Brian Heath introduced Mark Herndershot, former Division Director for Maricopa County Adult Probation Department covering Policy, Strategic Planning and Technology and currently CIO with TASC working with offenders in case

management, clinical therapy and drug testing monitoring for possible membership on the Board. Mr. Heath indicated that he met with Mr. Hendershot and discussed the school's mission, organization and programs and that Mr. Hendershot was very interested in serving on the Board. Mr. Hendershot had submitted his application to the Board and questionnaire which the Board had reviewed prior to today's meeting. Ms. Diaz asked Mr. Hendershot to discuss his interest in Southwest Leadership Academy and service on the Board. Mr. Gantt and Ms. Diaz discussed Mr. Hendershot's application after which Ms. Diaz made a motion to elect Mark Hendershot to the Southwest Leadership Academy Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gantt and unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Gantt welcomed Mr. Hendershot to the Board and congratulated him to the Board.

### **6. Modification of the By-Laws of Southwest Leadership Academy-**

A motion to amend the By Law of Southwest Leadership Academy by adding Article 1, Section 9 to the By Laws providing for Ex-Officio Members of the Board that represent the management company partnering with the school, Rite of Passage was made by Ms. Diaz, seconded by Mr. Gantt. During the discussion Ms. Diaz asked about the value of adding this to the by-laws since the ROP Executive Director already participates in the meetings. Dr. Geiger noted that this memorializes the role and clarifies the level of authority as the ex-officio member may not make motions nor can he/she vote on matters before the Board. He also pointed out that this position will demonstrate the commitment of ROP to Southwest Leadership Academy by identifying an official role in the development of the school and Board. The motion passed unanimously.

### **7. Election of Ex-Officio Member to the Board**

Following the approval of the ex-officio membership on the Board, Ms. Diaz made a motion to elect Brian Heath, executive director for Rite of Passage, to serve as an ex-officio member of the Southwest Leadership Academy during his term of office as executive director for Rite of Passage. Mr. Gantt seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

### **8. Election of Officers:**

Dr. Geiger indicated that in accordance with the By-Laws of Southwest Leadership Academy, the Board shall elect a president, secretary and treasurer of the Board. Both Ms. Diaz and Mr. Gantt questioned whether the Board wanted to take this action now since the Board is in the process of recruiting and adding additional Board members. Following the discussion, Ms. Diaz made a motion to defer this agenda item to the Board meeting in September for further consideration. The motion as seconded by Mr. Gantt and unanimously approved. (Positions and their duties are described in the By-Laws)

### **9. Designation as the Annual Meeting Date**

A discussion regarding the requirement in the By-Laws to identify an annual meeting date had not been established and needed to be done. Ms. Diaz suggested that instead of the first meeting in July as listed on the agenda, that the last board meeting in June would be best. Ms. Diaz made a motion was made to identify the third Tuesday in June of each year as the annual meeting of the Board and amend the By Laws, Article 1, Section 3 of the current By Laws. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gantt and approved unanimously.

### **10. Discussion re Board Meeting Frequency**

Dr. Geiger noted that in the recruitment of board members the question about time commitment for Board membership arose and he suggested the Board discuss the frequency of the meetings to accommodate Board members while enabling the Board to complete its role and responsibilities. He noted that the By Laws call for an annual meeting and meetings called by the President but did not specify the frequency of regular board meetings. Ms. Diaz said that she felt that Board members who cannot devote at least one morning each month may not have the dedication to the Board that she would like to see and suggested that the board maintain its monthly meeting schedule as it is now on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Mr. Gantt said that perhaps bi-monthly meetings would be acceptable but recommended that this question be determined by the newly expanded board and deferred to the next meeting September 1, 2017. Currently the Board meets monthly. Because the Board may wish to discuss whether they want to change the meetings from monthly to bi-monthly, quarterly or some other schedule, Ms. Diaz made

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a motion to defer this agenda item to the September 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Mr. Gantt seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

### **11. Discussion of Nursery and Child Care at Southwest Leadership Academy: Dr. Greg Fowler**

Ms. Diaz expressed her desire to enhance the proposed daycare to actual preschool in the future to which Dr. Fowler said that our current agreement with the Isaac school district did not permit us to set up a program that competes with the Isaac School District and they have a preschool program. Mr. Heath felt that representatives of Southwest Leadership Academy should discuss this with Isaac since the only students in the preschool would be children of students at Southwest Leadership.

Ms. Diaz made a motion to authorize the administration to enter into an agreement, contingent upon approval by counsel and administrative determination of satisfactory completion of the terms and conditions, with April Burbank of Divine Children Preschool and Daycare to provide nursery and child care program and staff effective October 6, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gantt and unanimously approved.

### **12. Expulsion Hearing for Student: Dr. Greg Fowler**

Dr. Fowler had presented to the Board the student's lengthy record of violations of school policy and violence in the school towards other students. He noted that this expulsion was based on a serious, physically aggressive confrontation the student had with another student causing serious injury. The student was suspended immediately after the incident; the parents were informed and provided written notice. Dr. Fowler recently visited the parent and explained the situation again and made certain that the parent knew that she could come to the board today, in private session, to plea her son's case. The parent signed a statement acknowledging that she was informed and able to attend the Board meeting. Neither the parent nor the student attended today's meeting.

Based on the principal's recommendation and a history of serious behavioral violations which had been presented to the Board, Ms. Diaz made a motion to expel the student in

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question effective August 30, 2017 based on his actions on August 16, 2017 and previous negative behavior documented over several years.

- 13. Discussion Re: Start of School, Enrolment, Attendance, Staffing, Extracurricular Sports, Calendar of Events, Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Development, Vocational Courses, Facility Updates and Current Status of the School – School Principal,** Dr. Greg Fowler provided the Board with an update on programs, students, and compliance. He said that currently there were 372 enrollees at the school with approximately 250 students in attendance daily. He said that students are very interested in the cosmetology program as well as barbering and that was bringing many students to the school as were sports: football, soccer, basketball, boxing, softball, and cheerleading.
- 14. Review of Food Service Program and Community Eligibility Program:** Matthew Boucher explained to the Board that the school had applied for the Community Eligibility Program so all students can eat breakfast and lunch at no cost. Chef Dane Smith indicated that the number of students eating breakfast and lunch compared to last year is significant with about 75 students now eating breakfast compared to approximately 15 last year and 200+ students eating lunch compared to last year's 100. The quality of the lunches has improved dramatically with Chef Smith who is a distinguished chef himself. Mr. Boucher said we would hear from the AZ DOE soon if we qualify for CEP.
- 15. Report on Compliance Reports and Procedures:** Matthew Boucher indicated that the school was up to date on reports to the state and that training on PowerSchool will occur September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 16. Review of FY18 Budget and financial Report:** ROP CFO, CJ Bower, presented the (financial report including the balance sheet as of July 31, 2017, the YTD statement of cash which shows a deficit at this time because far more spending occurs at the beginning of the school year than over the next 10 months so this is expected, and the income statement as of July 31, 2017 a slightly higher deficit for the month as projected but again this tends to balance out over time due to the way the state funds the schools.

**17. Status of FY14, FY15, and FY16 Audit Appeal:** Dr. Philip Geiger noted that the AZ AG's office has asked to schedule a settlement meeting in September and if that does not provide resolution, the appeal will be heard by an administrative law judge in November.

**18. Modification to Charter Holder:**

A motion was made by Ms. Diaz to modify the charter holder for Southwest Leadership Academy to the entire Board of Directors effective immediately and authorize the President to notify the Arizona Charter Board of this change. Mr. Gantt seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**19. Modification of Charter Representatives:**

Ms. Diaz made a motion to appoint Dr. Greg Fowler, Dr. Philip Geiger and Matthew Boucher as charter representatives for Southwest Leadership Academy effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gantt and was unanimously approved.

**20. Resignation of Board Member**

Ms. Diaz moved to accept the resignation of Mia Damiani with sincere regret. (Ms. Damiani has been a contributing Board member who will be missed but she has assumed a new professional position which prevents her from devoting the time she feels is needed to be a good board member. Mr. Gantt seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. The Board expressed hope that she will return to the Board in the future.

**21. Identify future agenda items (Discussion/Action)** Mr. Gantt asked if the Board members had any future items for the agenda. Ms. Diaz and Mr. Gantt agreed that several items on the agenda that will be carried forward to the next meeting but there were no other items to add at this time.

**22. Public Comment** Mr. Gantt called for public comment but there was none.

**23. Adjournment** Mr. Gantt adjourned the meeting at 11:58 AM.

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**Next regular meeting: September 19, 2017 @ 10AM (MST) @ Southwest Leadership Academy (telephonic attendance is acceptable).**