

Southwest Leadership Academy Board Minutes

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHWEST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 9,2019

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 38-431.02, notice was given to the public, that the Governing Board for Southwest Leadership Academy will hold a meeting open to the public as well as a Board retreat as specified below. The Board reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, with the exception of public hearings. One or more Board members may participate telephonically. The meeting took place at University Club of Phoenix, 39 E Monte Vista Road, Phoenix, AZ 85004

1. The meeting was called to order at 5: 50 PM by Board President Mike Gantt. He took role and also present was Mark Hendershot (Treasurer), and Brian Heath who joined the meeting at 8:00 PM.
2. Mr. Gantt introduced the following visitors: Dr. Terry Rowles (presenter from Arizona School Boards Association, Robert Di Bacco and Yvonne Watterson speakers from Arizona Charter Schools Association, Dr. Philip Geiger (Superintendent), Paula Signorelli (Director of Business Operations), , Esmeralda Delgado (registrar), Cinthia Lopez (administrative assistant), Greg Peters (math teacher and school leader) , Chuck Connor (math teacher, school leader), Jon Walker (science teacher- school leader), Myles Jackson (lead behavior mentor), and School leader) and Marguerita Trujillo (former SLA +school requirements for an administrative certificate).
3. **Board Retreat**
 - a. **Presentation by Dr. Terry Rowles, Arizona School Boards Association** - the importance of policy development, changing rules, and the differences between charter policies and standard public school policies.
 - b. **Ten-minute break**
 - c. **Presentation by Robert DiBacco and Yvonne Watterson from the Arizona Charter Schools Association**
 - i. How is equalization aid determined?
 - ii. Classroom Site Fund- how is that funding determined, what are the rules around spending those funds, how do you deal with funds that go unspent, what are the restrictions on these funds?
 - iii. Titles I, II, III, IV - similar questions to the one above

Southwest Leadership Academy Board Minutes

- iv. What are the special financial benefits SLA gets as an alternative high school?
- v. How should the Board be addressing the near \$1M surplus it currently has? What are the benefits and deficits of maintaining funds at that level?
- vi. Knowing what you do about our dashboard, what do we need to do to qualify for expansion?

Regular Board meeting

4. Approval of Corrected Meeting Minutes from January 24 2019 board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Heath to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2019 Board meeting attached. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 28, 2019 board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Hendershot to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2019 Board meeting attached. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Review of FY19 Budget, financial Reports for February 2019, Status of Revenue Recovery for Past Auditor's Fees, 1.06% funds, Filing of revised budget with AZDE, retroactive teacher pay, placement of personnel increases and average teacher salaries on the SLA website as required and the FY 18 Federal Tax Return -Paula Signorelli, ROP Director of Business Operations, reviewed the monthly budget summary, expenditures, revenue, and projected budget performance and answered questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Heath to receive the February 2019 financial reports as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Designation of Staff considered teachers for the purpose of 301 funds and salary increases – According to the Attorney General's Office; it is the Board of Education that can determine which employees are considered teachers for receiving 301 funds and specific salary increases designated for teachers. This Board has never taken a vote on this issue but to clarify the Board's intentions regarding inclusion of certain positions, the Board is being asked to approve the motion noted below. The positions must be those of teachers, in the public

Southwest Leadership Academy Board Minutes

school arena they also must be certified personnel, but not necessarily certified in charter schools; however, they must have instructional interaction with students.

A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Heath to designate all full time teachers and certified guidance counselors as teachers for the purpose of receiving 301 funds and excluding administrators and compliance officers, contingent upon approval of the Regional ROP HR department representative and if not approved authorize all teachers only to be eligible for 301 Funds. Motion passed unanimously.

8. **Principal's Report** – Due to illness, Dr. Fowler, principal, was not able to attend this meeting and will present the school report at the next Board Meeting to include the following topics: Academic and Career Fair 3/22, Galileo Scores, AZ Merit, AIMS Science Exam.
9. **Approval of Futures Education Services for Special Education-** Attached is a proposal from Futures Education Services to fulfill an expanded role in providing special education services to the students at SLA for FY20. This proposal includes administrative support to ensure that we are complying with all state and federal regulations in special education. Futures will also employ and supervise our special education teacher.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Hendershot to approve the proposal from Futures Education for FY20 to provide special education services and oversight at the rates noted in the proposal contingent upon approval of the Director of Business Operations (Paula Signorelli). Motion passed unanimously.

10. **Expansion of Technology Program (through Woz U Education)** – This past year we purchased three programs from Woz U Education drones, coding and cybersecurity. This year we are looking to add applications development and engineering (including 3D printing). The total cost to replenish our existing kits

Southwest Leadership Academy Board Minutes

and to add the two new kits is \$30,000 of which The Woz Foundation will fund \$21,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Heath to approve the expansion and replenishment of the technology program using Woz U Education technology kits at a cost of \$30,000, of which The Woz Foundation will fund \$21,000. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Transportation Equipment for FY20 – Currently we have four vans that we use to transport students to and from school, field trips, athletic events, and for school use to pick up and deliver equipment, furniture and a host of miscellaneous activities. One of those van's leases will expire at the end of May and we do not intend to renew the lease as the vehicle has in excess of 100,000 miles and is in need of additional maintenance. This year we have spent a lot of money on vans due to replacement of catalytic converters that were stolen, A/C that was not working, engine problems, and a host of other problems costing us in excess of \$5K this year alone. The Superintendent indicated that he would be pursuing competitive quotes for multiple, approved, vehicle options for the Board to consider at its June meeting. No further action was required.

12. Authorization to Extend the Facilities Use Agreement with the Isaac School District No. 5 – The current lease with Isaac School District expires June 30, 2019 and has a requirement to notify the District if we intend to renew our lease 60 days prior, which is April 30, 2019. Therefore, the administration would like approval to negotiate a renewal of the agreement and the cost for the FY20 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Gantt to authorize the superintendent or his designee to negotiate a one-year renewal of the school site at 4301 West Fillmore Street effective July 1, 2019 to June 20, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Continuation of Evening School for FY20 - Expulsion of Student – Evening school began right after Thanksgiving 2018 with 11 enrolled students. Currently we have 2-4 students showing up on any given night but we know

Southwest Leadership Academy Board Minutes

that there are many students who have simply dropped out of school and are not attending any other school. We have had some day students come in the evening for help with their work but in general, the program has been a struggle and did not come close to meeting our expectations. The question is doing we want to try and promote the evening school for FY20? We know there are students out there that need to be served. This past year we have been able to subsidize the program with our \$31K graduation grant and hopefully we can have that grant renewed for another year, as our graduation rate is also unacceptable. Attached is a summary of the budget and plan to operate the evening school for another year, which shall include aggressive recruiting, more engaging instruction, and a person responsible for its success.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Hendershot to authorize evening school for FY20 in accordance with the plan provided by the administration attached, contingent upon approval of the Director of Business Operations (Paula Signorelli). Motion passed unanimously.

- 14. Approval to Submit a Request for a CAP Increase to 500, Authorization to Retain Consultants to Assist in the Preparation of a New Charter Application, a New School Amendment Application, a CAP increase and possible Grade Expansion** - During the Charter Board meeting last year, the Charter Board president stated that if we have significantly improved scores on the AZ Merit test for FY19 the SLA Board could apply for an enrollment cap. To qualify we will need 85% of or current CAP of 400, which is 340 students to qualify. Approval for a new school will also require significantly improved test scores. Since the AZ Merit test is still in progress with results not known until the beginning of May, the Board discussed tabling this item until the next Board meeting when test scores and analysis will be available.

A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Gantt to table motions for a CAP increase, a new charter application or charter amendments and the engagement of consultants until the next Board meeting when test scores will be available. Motion passed unanimously.

- 15. Student Expulsion** –The Board has received confidential information about a student who assaulted a staff member and based upon the facts of the matter has been recommended for permanent expulsion.

Southwest Leadership Academy Board Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Hendershot to permanently expel the identified student for serious infractions of the school's code of conduct. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Next regular meeting is June 30, 2019 at 10:30 AM (MST) at 4301 West Fillmore Street, Phoenix, AZ 85043.

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