

## **Board of Education Minutes- Southwest Leadership Academy September 22, 2020**

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 at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. One or more Board members participated telephonically. The meeting took place at Southwest Leadership Academy 4301 West Fillmore Street, Phoenix, AZ 85043.

1. Call to order and roll call. Board President Mike Gantt called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Present telephonically (Zoom) were President Mike Gantt, Brian Heath (Secretary/Treasurer), Ruben Olivas, Terry Hines, and Drew Ainsworth.
2. Introduction of Visitors: Also present telephonically (Zoom) were Dr. Greg Fowler (Principal), Dr. Philip Geiger (Superintendent), Paula Signorelli (Director of Business Operations), Nancey Carter (SLA compliance officer), and Priscilla Ayala Pacheco (school social worker). President Gantt also called on the public who may be present on zoom but there was no response.
3. **Approval of minutes of June 23, 2020, August 10, 2020, and August 12, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mrs. Hines to approve the minutes of June 23, 2020, August 10, 2020, and August 12, 2020 board meetings attached. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Introduction of our new school social worker, Priscilla Ayala Pacheco MSW.** Ms. Pacheco explained her role, the initiatives on which she is working, and goals for FY21. She discussed her plans for providing community referrals, student volunteering, parent training, and other initiatives to serve students and parents at SLA. The Board thanked Ms. Pacheco and welcomed her to SLA. Dr. Geiger advised the Board that Ms. Ayala Pacheco and he are still working with the AZ Department of Education to secure the social work certification for Ms. Ayala Pacheco which may adversely affect the safety grant received from the Department but that Dr. Geiger is working with the department to resolve this matter. No action was taken by the Board.

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5. **Principal's Report** – Dr. Fowler presented information on the professional development (teacher in-service), current academic programs, student achievement, athletics, after school clubs, evening school, student behavior, personnel, Elevate training, Beyond Textbooks, Project Based Learning, Trauma Based Training, the New Art Program, Reading 180, AZM2 Testing and plans for FY21 and the implementation of the Danielson evaluation tool for teachers. Dr. Geiger also indicated that the federal government has stated there will not be waivers of statewide standardized testing this year and the AZ Department of Education expects to administer the AZM2 exam in the Spring. No action was taken by the Board.
  
6. **On-Line Instruction Approval by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools** – Dr. Geiger thanked Assistant Principals, Jessica Vensel, and Meghan Miller, for their development of SLA's online instruction proposal to the State Board for Charter Schools which was approved September 14, 2020, to take effect immediately. Dr. Geiger noted that the AOI program will be funded on a per-pupil basis by the State of Arizona Department of Education.

**A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Olivas to approve the immediate implementation of the on-line education program as presented to and approved by the State Board for Charter Schools on September 14, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.**

7. **Update regarding Board Policies** – Dr. Geiger noted that the Board has been working on Board Policies for more than two years and that the Board is approaching a time when the Policy Manual for the LEA must be completed. Dr. Geiger noted that he reviewed and vetted more than 850 pages of ASBA recommended and required policies and presented them to the Board for consideration. He said that the Board completed about 15% of the policies but now needs to finalize the policy book. He said the ASBA will not put the policy book into the final form until we have approved all policies we intend to approve and that many policies that need approval are required by law. Dr. Geiger recommended that the Board appoint a policy committee to review the remaining policies so they can be considered at the December board meeting.

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The policies being considered today are required to continue receiving federal funds. The policies requiring approval are attached. They are ACA-Sexual Harassment; ACAA-Title IX Sexual Harassment; and ACAA-R- Regulation on Title IX Sexual Harassment.

There was considerable discussion on the topic of these policies and Mr. Heath reported on a video he viewed from the Office of Civil Rights describing the changes to the current Title IX policies. He said that the new policy provides for procedures to resolve claims under Title IX and that both parties will have the right to a hearing and representation. The procedures identify who can serve in which capacity as part of the adjudication procedure.

**A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Ainsworth to approve Policies ACA-Sexual Harassment; ACAA-Title IX Sexual Harassment and Policy Regulation - ACAA-R- Regulation on Title IX Sexual Harassment with a stipulation that the policies be revisited at the December board meeting so that the management company can incorporate its input into the policies for further consideration. The motion passed unanimously.**

President Gantt then asked for volunteers to serve on the policy committee. Mr. Heath and Mr. Gantt agreed to serve on the committee and Mr. Gantt asked Dr. Geiger if he would also serve on the committee as a non-board member. Messrs. Heath, Gantt, and Geiger agreed.

- 8. Acknowledgment of State Approved Parental Rights-** The Board acknowledged that it had received and reviewed the Arizona Department of Education Parental Rights Handbook that the school is required to publish on its website and include this information in the student handbook. (Senate Bill 1061, to take effect 8/25/2020). Mr. Ainsworth questioned Dr. Geiger if the entire handbook would be sent to parents or a summary. Gr. Geiger said that the Handbook icon will be on the SLA website with a link to the full document and that any information sent home would be a brief summary and will also provide the URL if someone wants to read the entire document.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Hines, seconded by Mr. Olivas to acknowledge the AZ Department of Education Parental Rights Handbook and to direct the superintendent to place this information on the SLA**

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**website, in the next student handbook, and the next written communication to parents. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 9. Status of Pursuing a New Charter School Under Existing SLA Board –** Board member Brian Heath provided a report on the search for a suitable location to place a new charter school under the existing SLA board. Mr. Heath explained to the Board that the site being considered on 3024 Fillmore Street in central Phoenix has gone under contract for purchase by another party. He also said that Drs. Fowler and Geiger and he visited the site of the former Sun Valley Charter School at 5806 South 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue but did not think the placement of a new charter in a strip mall was advisable. Dr. Geiger suggested that even though we have not found a satisfactory site to date, we are continuing to search for a facility and want to be ready to submit a new school amendment request to the AZ State Board for Charter Schools should a site be located. Dr. Geiger said that the Board approved a motion, almost a year ago authorizing him to prepare the necessary proposal but to reconfirm that decision, he is requesting the Board approve the motion below.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Hines, seconded by Mr. Olivas to reconfirm the authorization for the administration to submit an expansion request for a new charter school under the SLA charter and existing board for FY22 and authorization for Superintendent, Dr. Philp Geiger, to submit the required documents to open the new charter at the beginning of the FY22 school year. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 10. Report on FY21 Grants ESSER, DEMA funding, and Federal Title Funding-** SLA compliance officer, Nancey Carter, discussed and explained the various grants. Federal Title programs and special COVID funding programs available to SLA. It was noted that a large amount of funding has been provided by the state and federal government to cover the cost of the COVID precautions and improvements made before students entering the school for in-person instruction and to accommodate online instruction. The Board thanked Ms. Carter but took no action.

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**11. Finance**– Paula Signorelli reviewed the income statement for July that it had previously received, and she displayed the August income statement and balance sheet for August 2020. A copy of the August financials was emailed to the Board during the meeting. Mr. Ainsworth questioned why we approve receipt vs approval of the reports. President Gantt asked Dr. Geiger to explain and he said that the Board cannot confirm the validity of the report and often the board does not have the financial information in time for a thorough review so the board simply acknowledges that it has received them. There were no further questions.

**A motion was made by President Gantt, seconded by Mr. Ainsworth to receive the July and August 2020 financial reports as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.**

**12. Scheduled Board Meetings for FY21** – The Board plans to meet quarterly but the president or multiple members of the Board may call special meetings, as necessary. The dates provided below are recommended meeting dates, but the Board can change them based upon the availability of the Board. The Board may also want to meet in between regularly scheduled Board meetings for budget adjustments if circumstances require. Some of these meetings may be held via Zoom calls due to COVID 19.

**A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mrs. Hines to establish the following dates for regularly scheduled board meetings at Southwest Leadership Academy on 4301 West Fillmore Street commencing 10:30 AM (MST) unless noted otherwise – September 22, 2020; December 15, 2020; March 23, 2021 (plus retreat) @ 5:30 PM at The University Club, Phoenix; and June 29, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **13. Announcements**

**The next Board meeting is December 15, 2020, at Southwest Leadership Academy.** Future scheduled board meetings include: March 23, 2021 (including board retreat – 5:30 PM), June 29, 2021

**14. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.