

Minutes of June 29, 2021 Board Meeting- Southwest Leadership Academy

The Board meeting agenda was posted on June 25, 2021 pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the public, that the Governing Board for Southwest Leadership Academy will hold a meeting open to the public on June 29, 2021. The meeting was held at Southwest Leadership Academy, 4301 West Fillmore Street, Phoenix, AZ 85043

- 1. Call to order and roll call. At 10:40 AM (MST) Board president Michael Gantt called the meeting to order. Present were Mike Gantt, Brian Heath (Treasurer/Secretary, and Drew Ainsworth. Ruben Olivas and Terry Hines were absent. All board members participated by zoom.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance – President Gantt led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 3. Others in attendance were Dr. Philip Geiger (Superintendent), Dr. Greg Fowler (Principal), and Paula Signorelli (Director of Business Operations).**
- 4. Principal’s Report; Dr. Greg Fowler, Principal**
 - a. Spoke about the new administrative personnel & their roles
 - b. Described the status of the literacy grant (\$888K) received.
 - c. Continuing Programs: Beyond Textbooks, Galileo, Reading 180, Rosetta Stone, Standards Based Instruction,
 - d. Teacher Evaluations (Danielson model) and Prop 301 funds with the first set of evaluations completed by September 3.
 - e. Sports Programs are underway, football, soccer, volleyball, cheerleading.
 - f. Staffing & new personnel (Art, tutor, new behavior mentor, school within a school, new administrative assistant, 2 new assistant principals, and a reading specialist and reading paraprofessional.
 - g. New Programs: Math 180, Naviance (E-Cap), Performance Matters, artificial intelligence (WOZ)
 - h. Summer School is over and approximately 42 students earned credits.
- 5. Approval of March 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Ainsworth to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2021 Board meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

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6. **Update regarding Board Policies** – With special thanks to Rusty Alexander, corporate business manager, previously approved policies have now been restated into the ROP model and are being presented today for the Board’s approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Ainsworth to approve the policies attached with an effective date of July 1, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Approval to remove Rachel Parson as a Charter School Representative for Southwest Leadership Academy effective immediately.** Since Rachel Parson resigned her position as compliance officer for SLA June 18. 2021, it is appropriate to remove her as a charter school representative.

A motion was made by Mr. Ainsworth, seconded by Mr. Heath to remove Rachel Parson as a charter school representative for Southwest Leadership due to her recent resignation as the school’s compliance officer. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Finance– Paula Signorelli- Review March, April, and May 2021 financials,**

A motion was made by Mr. Ainsworth, seconded by Mr. Heath to receive the March, April, May 2021 financial reports as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Finance–Paula Signorelli will present the proposed FY22 budget** - The Board opened the meeting to the public for comment on the proposed FY22 school budget. No members of the public were present.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Ainsworth to approve the proposed FY22 annual school budget, and set Thursday, July 15th at 10:30 AM as the date for the board meeting to review and approve the final FY22 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

State of AZ budget due dates for charter schools

Federal and state maintenance of operations declaration form – July 3 (Saturday)

Proposed Budget (approved and uploaded) – July 5 (Monday)

Estimated Student Count Enrollment list per SF21-044 – July 9 (Friday)

Adopted Budget (board approval) – July 15 (Thursday)

Adopted budget (uploaded July 18 – (Sunday)

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10. Annual Audit – The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools has approved the engagement of Fester and Chapman as auditors for FY21 for Southwest Leadership Academy (notification attached). Ms. Signorelli said the legal questionnaire will be sent to the school on 7/19 and the audit will be conducted mid-September. Both will be done remotely.

No further action was taken.

11. Election of Board Members: Board member terms expire as follows:

Mrs. Hines 6/30/22

Mr. Olivas 6/30/23

Mr. Ainsworth 6/30/23

Mr. Heath 6/30/23

Mr. Gantt 6/30/21

12. Reappointment of current board members – Mr. Gantt’s term expires June 30th, and the school has benefitted from his leadership and therefore we are hoping that he will agree to serve another three-year term.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Ainsworth to reappoint Michael Gantt as a member of the SLA Board for a three-year term from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Consideration to appoint a new board member – Mr. Sean M. Diana, an educator who owns and operates Mandarin and Spanish immersion preschools and is an applicant to the State Charter School Board for a similar program in a K-8 charter school has indicated an interest in serving on the SLA Board. Dr. Geiger met with Mr. Diana and believes he would be an asset to our board. Contacted again recently Mr. Diana expressed his continued interest in a Board position. Mr. Gantt said that he would like the board to meet Mr. Diana before he is appointed to the Board and asked that the Board table the motion to appoint Mr. Diana to the Board and invite him to the July 15, 2021 board meeting to meet the board members.

President Gantt tabled the motion to approve the appointment of Sean M. Diana as a member of the Southwest Leadership Academy Board effective July 1, 2021, to fill a term that expires June 30, 2023 (Resume attached) to the July 15th Board meeting.

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14. Conflict of Interest Policy and Disclosure Form – Annually the Board is required to file a conflict-of-interest form. Copies will be distributed to the Board at the meeting for FY22.

No action required other than completing the form. Please bring the completed form with you or mail it to the office.

15. Board Officers: At this meeting, according to the By-laws, the Board elects a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer or it can combine multiple positions.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Ainsworth to nominate Mrs. Terry Hines to the position of Vice President. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Ainsworth, seconded by Mr. Heath to nominate Mr. Michael Gantt to the position of President. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Gantt to nominate Mr. Drew Ainsworth to the position of Secretary/treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Scheduled Board Meetings for FY22 – 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Gantt, seconded by Mr. Ainsworth 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 – Tuesday, September 21, 2022; Tuesday, December 14, 2022; Tuesday, March 22, 2022 (plus retreat) @ 5:30 PM at a location to be determined; and Tuesday, June 28, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

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17. Approval of Lease Agreement with the Isaac School District- Although the agreement with the Isaac School District is with ROP and SLA is a subtenant, it is important that the Board understands and agrees to the terms of the agreement as these terms and conditions are passed through the SLA board.

Since we requested the renewal agreement from Isaac SD several months ago, we have not been able to speak to the business manager there to obtain a copy of the new lease.; therefore this matter will be reconsidered at the special budget meeting July 15, 2021.

18. Adjournment – President Gantt adjourned the meeting at 12:42 PM.

Notice of a Special Meeting of the Board -Approval of the annual school budget for FY22 – July 15, 2021, at 10:30 AM at Southwest Leadership Academy located at 4301 West Fillmore Street, Phoenix, AZ 85043. Board members and the public may also attend telephonically.

19. Announcements

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is September 22, 2021, at Southwest Leadership Academy.

The special board meeting for budget approval is July 15, 2021, at 10:30 AM at Southwest Leadership Academy.

SCHOOL STARTS – August 2, 2021