
Southwest Leadership Academy Board Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2018

MINUTES OF SOUTHWEST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 38-431.02, notice was given to the general public, that the Governing Board for Southwest Leadership Academy will hold a meeting open to the public on May 15th at 5:30 PM (MST) at the Thunderbird Executive Inn & Conference Center, 1 Global Place, 15249 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85306

Board President Mike Gantt called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM and had a roll call. The following board members were present: Mike Gantt, Jenny Diaz, Mark Hendershot, Ruben Olivas, Terry Hines and Brian Heath

The following visitors were introduced: Dr. Gregory Fowler, Principal; Michael Hernandez, Assistant Principal; Alice Doan, HR Specialist for SLA; Dr. Philip Geiger, Regional Director of Education; Vicki Hire, SLA Accountant; Robert Di Bacco, COO Arizona Charter Schools Association; Matthew Boucher, Compliance Officer; Esmeralda Delgado, registrar; Myles Jackson, Lead Behavior Mentor; Margarita Trujillo, guidance counselor and CJ Bower, CFO (telephonically for the regular meeting only).

- 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes** from the March 27, 2018 board meeting. (Action Required)

A motion was made by Ms. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Hines to approve the minutes of the March 27th, 2018 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Board Retreat** – Robert DiBacco from the Arizona Charter Schools Association provided a Board workshop that addressed the role of the board of education, the role of its members, information on school finance and legislation, update on recently passed legislation regarding teacher pay, and numerous other topics of interest to the Board. This portion of the meeting began at 5:45 and ended at 9:15 PM. The Board expressed its gratitude to Mr. DiBacco and the Arizona Charter Schools Association.
- 3.** President Gantt spoke briefly about the Academic and Career Fair at SLA in April and Mr. Heath showed a 5-minute SLA marketing video that is under development. The Board was very pleased with the video prepared by the staff and students at CSA.

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- 4. Review of FY18 Budget, financial Reports for March and April 2018, and Engagement of Auditor:** Vicki Hire and CJ Bower reviewed the monthly budget summary, expenditures, revenue, and projected budget performance and answered questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Olivas to receive the March and April 2018 financial reports as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Approval of Final FY18 Budget** –CJ Bower provided the Board with a copy of the proposed final budget for FY18 that will be submitted to the State Department of Education this week.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Ms. Diaz to approve the final FY18 School budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- 6. Research Reimbursement of Auditor's Fees Retroactively** –During the presentation by Mr DiBacco he noted that the SLA financial report did not show reimbursement of the annual auditor's fees that the state provides. The board discussed the need to determine why those funds were not received and to determine how long that has occurred and how we can recover those funds.

A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Ms. Hines to research the reimbursement of the auditor's fees retroactively and report to the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

- 7. Approval of Student Council Activity Account: Since the following three agenda items were previously discussed by the Board at its March meeting, the Board decided that they would approve each of the following three motions at one time.**

A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Ms. Hines Move to approve a new account for the Southwest Leadership Academy Student Council at Bank of America requiring two signatories from the following people: Margarita Trujillo, Dr. Gregory Fowler, Michael Hernandez, CJ Bower or Dr. Philip Geiger and to authorize Vicki Hire to open and activate the account on behalf of the Board for the student council. The motion passed unanimously.

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- 8. Approval of Woz U Education:** The Board heard about the programs available from Woz U Education and for FY19 at our last meeting but since we lost a quorum just before approval of this item, it is on the agenda again.

We intend to move forward to provide at least two CTE programs from Woz U Education. Karen Young, CEO of Woz U Education provided a 30-minute discussion at the last SLA Board meeting to be sure that the Board is in complete agreement with this program.

A motion was made by Mr. Hendeshot, seconded by Ms. Hines to authorize the administration to proceed with the purchase of science and technology CTE programs (recommending coding and drones) from Woz U Education for the FY19 school year not to exceed \$12,000 and to authorize Dr. Philip Geiger to execute an agreement between SLA and the company with funds from the FY19 school budget. The motion passed unanimously.

- 9. Status of Day Care:**

This is another item that the Board did not get to act on at our last meeting.

Over the past three months, we have been reviewing all proposals and letters of interest we received regarding the development of a preschool at Southwest Leadership Academy. All of the proposals had interesting programs and were of high quality. However, we now have a recommendation and although we were impressed with all proposals, we are recommending TLC Child Enrichment to provide childcare services at Southwest Leadership Academy.

A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Ms. Hines to approve the administration to finalize an agreement with TLC Child Enrichment Preschool and Daycare to establish a preschool at Southwest Leadership Academy to provide services for approximately the number of children permitted under their license for the space at SLA with priority provided to SLA students and staff with students paying nothing for services if covered by DES and staff at a reduced fee with the total outlay of cash from SLA of approximately \$15K for the playground canopy at the rear of the school and all other out of pocket expenses being paid by TLC in accordance with the terms originally provided in the RFP and to further authorize Dr. Philip Geiger to complete the negotiations and execute the contract on behalf of the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

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10. Motion for High-Point Preschool: Due to the decision of the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools to deny the request for an increase in our enrollment cap and the expansion of one school, this matter was removed from the agenda.

11. Report on AZ State Board for Charter Schools Meeting 5/14 – The State Charter decided not to approve the request for an enrollment cap and the expansion of SLA primarily due to the lack of evidence of a positive performance trend on the AZ Merit test. The Board suggested when we have better testing data that supports our claim that students are advancing academically to the level expected for this population, we can return for further consideration. The Board did not have adequate testing data and only a school rating from 2014.

12. Approval of Enrollment Cap Increase Request for FY19 to 500 students

During the Charter Board meeting the Board president stated that if we have significantly improved scores on the AZ Merit test for FY18 that are due out at the end of the month, the SLA Board could apply for an enrollment cap.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Hendershot to authorize Dr. Philip Geiger to submit a formal request and application for an enrollment increase for Southwest Leadership Charter to 500 students for the FY19 school year.

13. Approval of Special Services Contract with Futures Education – SLA solicited proposals for special education services for the remainder of FY 18 and FY19 by posting the RFP on our website and contacting two known providers: Futures Education and Integrated Education Services. Both Futures and Integrated Education responded. (proposals attached) After review, the administration recommends that we award the agreement to Futures Education in accordance with the RFP previously issued (attached).

Motion: Move to authorize Dr. Philip Geiger to negotiate a final agreement with Futures Education to provide special services for students at all SLA schools.

14. Identify future agenda items (Discussion/Action)

- a. Salary Review Study
- b. Preparation of FY19 budget

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- c. Recommendations for Board Officers
- d. Election of New or Returning Board Member (1)
- e. Approval of FY19 Salary Guide
- f. Approval of Food Service Contract with ROP
- g. Selection of Superintendent

15. Public Comment – There was no public comment

16. Adjournment: President Gantt adjourned the meeting at 9:57 PM.

Next regular meeting: June 26, 2018 at 10:30 AM (MST) @ Southwest Leadership Academy (telephonic attendance is acceptable).