

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 Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 1:00 PM (MST) at Southwest Leadership Academy at 4301 West Fillmore Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

1. Call to order and roll call. Mike Gantt, Jenny Diaz, Mark Hendershot, Ruben Olivas, and Brian Heath were present. Terry Hines was absent due to a family emergency.

2. Introduction of Visitors: Dr. Fowler introduced Michael Hernandez, the new SLA Assistant Principal who spoke about his experience and his appreciation for the position. The Board extended a warm welcome to Mr. Hernandez. Also present was an intern working with Ms. Diaz, Josephine Hamm.

3. Board Additions to the Agenda: President Gantt asked the Board if there were any further items to add to the agenda. There were none but Mr. Gantt had several issues he wanted to address: 1) He indicated that both Mr. Hendershot's and Mr. Gantt's names were misspelled on the school website which the administration said would be corrected, 2) Mr. Gantt mentioned a new article that stated that Arizona teacher's salary at the high school level were 48th lowest in the country and that elementary teacher salaries was 50th. The administration said that at the next Board meeting, they would provide a salary analysis of local districts for their review, 3) Mr. Gantt asked about the CTE programs and wanted to know if the culinary arts program is presently an actual course. Dr. Fowler responded that Chef Smith is working on the curriculum for the program at this time, 4) Mr. Gantt wanted to know how the administration was dealing with the number of students that enter the school after the 100th day. Dr. Fowler assured Mr. Gantt that he had adequate resources to process these enrollments and acknowledged the difficulty teachers have in adding new students this late in the year but for the sake of the students, we were trying to serve each and every student we could, 5) Mr. Gantt asked about the wiring kit and program we had received from MCEA in the past. Dr. Fowler indicated that the kit only comes to the school for one semester so it is a problem to try and create a meaningful CTE program under those conditions.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the November 28, 2017 board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Olivas to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2017 Board meeting which were attached. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion Re: Enrollment, Attendance, Staffing, Extracurricular Sports, Calendar of Events, Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Development, Vocational Courses, Facility Updates and Current Status of the School – Dr. Greg Fowler (Information/Discussion, no action required)

Dr. Fowler said that the boys' basketball team was currently tied for first place, the girls basketball team had to win the next two games to be in the playoffs, the girls wrestling team is first in the state, and that baseball, soccer, and track are spring sports to start soon. Dr. Fowler also mentioned that Mr. Rodriguez was going to try and get one of our boxers to be on an undercard for a match televised by ESPN.

Dr. Fowler said that this year we had the most students to ever take the STAR test and that the scores were significantly improved from the past. He told the board that 9 students qualified to graduate this past December and approximately 53 are scheduled to graduate in May.

6. Confirmation of Application for Title I, Title II, and IDEA funds for FY18: Attached is a copy of the summary of the Title I, Title II, and IDEA funds awarded by the US Department of Education for FY18 and the planned uses of those funds. Mr. Boucher explained the funding we applied for and Dr. Geiger noted that besides the use of paraprofessionals in mathematics and English, a lot of Title 1 funds are used to offer a summer school program.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Ms. Diaz to confirm the submission of the application for Title I, Title II and IDEA funds for the current school year (FY18) and to acknowledge the re-designation of the school from a Targeted Title I School to a School Wide Title I program permitting the school to use Title I funds for any enrolled student. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion regarding 5 year review by the Charter Board – Mr. Gantt stated that the charter board representatives will be visiting the school unexpectedly between 2/5 and 2/16 to review the schools programs, financial condition, compliance and staffing.

8. Review of Food Service Program Financial Projections: Chief Financial Officer, CJ Bower said that her review of the financial projections presented at the last meeting for FY18 reflected a forecasted \$100,000 loss in the program. No action was taken by the board.

9. Report on Compliance Reports Due Dates and Procedures: Matthew Boucher will discuss all required reporting dates since the last board meeting as well as enrollment and attendance. (No action required, due date attachment). Mr. Boucher indicated that all deadlines were met and that we are on schedule for all items on the due date matrix.

10. Review of FY18 Budget and financial Report: CJ Bower reviewed the monthly budget summary, expenditures, revenue, and projected budget performance and answer questions. Ms. Bower stated that the school will be funded for 492 students (weighted enrollment) which would provide \$2.42M for the school this year. She stated that we only received \$30,000 in special education funding this year but received \$60,000 last year. She stated that the \$150K owed to the state would be paid by June 30, 2018 and that the school would end the year having spent approximately \$190,000 above budget but the school has \$1.078M in surplus that will more than cover the costs to operate FY18. Mr. Hendershot, other Board members and Ms. Bower discussed the desirable surplus fund level the Board wants to retain.

A motion was made by Mr. Olivas, seconded by Mr. Heath to receive the November and December 2017 financial reports as submitted.

11. Approval to Apply for a Second Charter Under the Southwest Leadership Academy Contract: Dr. Geiger discussed the meeting with the Executive Director of the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and our Charter Board representative on December 26, 2017 where the Executive Director recommended that we submit an application for a second charter under our current contract rather than the replication application due to the fact that we currently do not qualify to apply for replication. The reason we do not qualify is that the state is using the 2014 student performance test scores which is the only set of scores that have been reviewed and used for replication approval we are, however, eligible to apply for a new charter under our current contract with the same governing board.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mark Hendershot to approve the submission of an application for a new (2nd) charter application under Southwest Leadership Academy for the FY19 school year and to authorize Dr. Philip Geiger to submit the application on behalf of the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Receipt of Audit Approval and Financial Approval- The board received the December 29, 2017 letter from the AZ Department of Education noting approval of the FY17 audit with deficiencies noted and the determination that Southwest Leadership academy the charter holder meets the Board's financial performance expectations. No board action required. The Board had no comments.

13. Receipt of Approval of Change in Charter Mission Statement – The Board was informed that its request to modify the Charter’s Mission Statement to reflect the focus on at risk youth has now been approved the State Charter Board. No further board action required.

14. Submission of ROTC Application: A copy of the application submitted to establish a Junior ROTC Training Corps at Southwest Leadership was provided to the

Board. A brief discussion ensued and the Board was informed that the administration was meeting with representatives of the Army ROTC tomorrow. Further information will be forthcoming.

15. Establish Date and Agenda for Board Retreat – The Board discussed plans for a half day retreat that would include the Charter Schools Association, policy development and other topics recommended by the administration and the Board. The meeting will be an evening meeting offsite. Further details will be forthcoming.

15. Status of Application for Daycare License for Southwest leadership Academy – Dr. Geiger reviewed the current status of the application process for a daycare license for SLA for FY19. Letters were mailed to more than 700 child care providers asking if they would have an interest in partnering with SLA to develop a daycare center at Southwest Leadership Academy. Approximately 20 providers attended a meeting at the school on Friday, January 19, 2018 at which time they received an informational packet explaining what the school was looking for and provided the date for all proposals to be submitted to the school.

Currently the administration is pursuing both approaches to establishing daycare for FY19, partnering with a licenses provider and seeking a license to operate a daycare of its own.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Ms. Diaz to authorize Dr. Philip Geiger to pursue potential partnerships and negotiate with licensed daycare providers to implement a daycare program at SLA and to further authorize Dr. Geiger to submit on behalf of Southwest Leadership Academy an application for licensing by the school to operate a daycare program at the school.

16. Approval of Revised Bylaws- Over the past few months the Board has modified the Bylaws and all of the revisions that have been approved by the Board are now included in this final, consolidated document. One correction noted by Ms. Hines was made to the document.

A motion was made by Mr. Olivas, seconded by Mr. Heath to approve the final consolidated version of the revised Bylaws for Southwest Leadership Academy and to authorize the administration to submit the revised document to the Arizona Charter Board, the Arizona Corporation Commission and any other state agency as required.

17. Identify future agenda items (Discussion/Action): Dr. Geiger stated that at the next board meeting the salary review will be available and a recommendation for a day care provider will be presented.

18. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

19. Adjournment

Next regular meeting: March 27, 2018 - 10:30 AM (MST) @ Southwest Leadership Academy (telephonic attendance is acceptable).

A copy of the Agenda and Meeting Minutes are available for review on our website: www.southwestleadership.com