

Southwest Leadership Academy Board Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2017

Board Minutes 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, September 26, 2017 at 10:30 AM (MST) at Southwest Leadership Academy at 4301 West Fillmore Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

1. **Call to order and roll call.** The meeting was called to order at 10:39 AM (MST) by President Mike Gantt. In attendance were: Jenny Diaz (telephonically), Ruben Olivas, Mark Hendershot, Brian Heath (ex-officio) and Mike Gantt (telephonically)
2. **Introduction of Visitors:** The following guests were present at the meeting: Terry Hines (prospective board member) and members of the administration and Southwest Leadership staff including: Principal Dr. Greg Fowler, ROP CFO CJ. Bower, Compliance officer Matthew Boucher and Regional Director of Education Dr. Philip Geiger.
3. **Board Additions to the Agenda:** Mr. Gantt asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Ms. Diaz mentioned an article she read about non-profit organizations that she wanted to share with the Board and Dr. Geiger indicated that he would forward a copy to the other board members which has been done. There being no additions to the agenda, President Gantt proceeded to the next item on the agenda.
4. **Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes** A motion was made by Ms. Diaz, seconded by Mr. Gantt to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2017 Board meeting. Motion passed with aye votes from Mr. Gantt, Ms. Diaz, Mr. Olivas and an abstention by Mr. Hendershot.
5. **Election of New Board Member-** A motion was made by Ms. Diaz, seconded by Mr. Gantt to elect Ruben Olivas to a three year term on the Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board effective immediately to complete a three year term that expires June 30, 2020. (Confidential information and resume were attached)
6. **Election of Officers:**
Motion: In accordance with the By-Laws of Southwest Leadership Academy, a motion was made by Ms. Diaz, second by Mr. Olivas to elect Mr. Gantt as president of the Board until June 30, 2018 at which time new officers will be elected during the June meeting of the board to take effect July 1st. Motion passed unanimously.

Following a recommendation by Ms. Bower that the secretary/treasurer position be held by one individual, a motion was made by Mr. Gantt seconded by Mr. Olivas to elect Ms..

Southwest Leadership Academy Board Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2017

Diaz as secretary/treasurer of the Board until June 30, 2018 at which time new officers will be elected during the June meeting of the board to take effect July 1st. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Geiger did mention that officers can stand for re-election if they desire to do so at that time.

- 7. Terms of Office:** A motion was made by Ms. Diaz, seconded by Mr. Gantt, that the terms of office of current board members who are not already elected for a specific term be as follows: Mr. Gantt 's term to expire June 30, 2018; Ms. Diaz term to expire June 30, 2019 and Mr. Hendershot to expire June 30, 2020. Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Geiger did point out that board members may seek another 3 year term when their current term expires.

8. Discussion re Board Meeting Frequency

A discussion regarding the frequency of Board meetings was held with members expressing their particular points of view. A motion was made by Mr. Olivas, seconded by Mr. Hendershot to set the following meeting schedule for 2017/18 and to request that board members attend as many meetings in person as possible: October 24, 2017, November 28, 2017, January 23, 2018, March 27, 2018, May 22, 2018 and June 26, 2018 and to amend the by-laws that in addition to the annual meeting that the board meets every other month of the year beginning July of each year beginning July 1, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

- 9. Discussion of Nursery and Child Care at Southwest Leadership Academy:** Dr. Fowler indicated that Divine Daycare has chosen not to partner with SLA this year but would like for the school to consider them for the 18/19 school year due to the fact that the company has recently opened a new preschool elsewhere and having problems staffing all of the schools. Dr. Fowler said that there are now 37 girls who have expressed interest in the preschool and he would expect an additional 40-60 girls to enroll once the nursery and daycare was established. Dr. Geiger indicated that he had already contacted other providers and is also looking at SLA getting a license to operate a preschool itself knowing the tremendous need the students have for such a service. No action was taken by the board.

- 10. Discussion Re: Start of School, 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 said that currently SLA has 354 enrolled students with an average of 236 in attendance daily. He said that the sports programs including football, soccer, and cheerleading are all going well. Dr. Fowler reported that in the STAR testing to date there has been a 12% increase in student performance. He also noted that 186 students

Southwest Leadership Academy Board Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2017

are new to the school this year. He said that the STAR testing will tell us where the students are and the Galileo testing will tell us where they should be. Galileo testing is also underway. Dr. Fowler said that we are down a social studies, science and English teacher and have recruitment underway.

Brian Heath said these positions had been filled but the personnel did not make it. He said that often the best personnel are “home grown” and come through the ranks of Canyon State or one of the other ROP facilities. He was going to speak to the director of the CSA school to see if there were personnel at CSA that could assume one or more of these positions. Mr. Heath also suggested contacting the Red Cross, Houston teachers, Florida Keys FEMA, Teach for America and other similar groups that are trying to help teachers in other areas relocate

Dr. Fowler also reported that the school would be represented at the Imagine School Fair to recruit students.

11. **Review of Food Service Program and Community Eligibility Program and Financial Projections:** Mr. Boucher indicated that the lunch counts vary based on the food we serve. Somedays we get as many as 200 students for lunch and 80-90 for breakfast and others just 110-120. This is a problem for the school in terms of projecting revenue. Dr. Geiger has spoken to Rob Bowser, regional food services director and Jamie Carlton, national food services director for ROP about making the menus more culturally sensitive for SLA students. Chef Smith provided the board with lunch.
12. **Review of FY18 Budget and financial Report:** CJ Bower reviewed the monthly budget summary, expenditures, revenue and projected budget performance and answered questions. She provided the YTD statement of cash flow, the balance sheet and monthly summary of all expenditures and revenue. A motion was made by Ms. Diaz, seconded by Mr. Hendershot to receive the financial report for August 2017. Motion passed unanimously.
13. **Tax Exempt Status** – Dr. Geiger presented the board with information as to why the school was not entitled to a waiver of the transaction transfer privilege tax (usually called sales tax) by the AZ Department of Revenue. No schools or state agencies are provided a waiver in Arizona. No action was required by the Board.
14. **Status of FY14, FY15, and FY16 Audit Appeal:** Dr. Geiger explained the current status of the FY14, 15 and 16 audits and the negotiations session held with the AZ DOE and the AZ AG’s office. A motion was made by Ms. Diaz seconded by Mr. Olivas to settle the audit appeal not to exceed the amount discussed at the meeting. (The actual amount will be displayed once the settlement has been reached.)
15. **Review and Approval of STEPS Contract for Special Education Services** – Dr. Geiger indicated that the contract with STEPS is still in negotiations. No board action required.

Southwest Leadership Academy Board Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2017

16. **Identify future agenda items** (Discussion/Action) – Brian Heath inquired as to whether prospective board member, Terry Hines was ready for the board to consider her application for board membership at the next meeting in October to which she replied she was. Ms. Hines’ replied that she was completing the paperwork, already had submitted her fingerprint clearance card application and was ready and eager to join the board. The election of Ms. Hines will be added to the next agenda in October.
17. **Public Comment** – President Gantt called for public comment but there was none.
18. **Adjournment** – President Gantt adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM (MST).

The next regular meeting: October 24, 2017 @ 10:30 AM (MST) @ Southwest Leadership Academy (telephonic attendance is acceptable).