

Meeting Minutes

Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board

Tuesday, January 21, 2014

8:30-9:5) (AZ) AM

In attendance:

Harriet Caruso, Board President
Mike Gantt, Board Secretary
Myriam Villareal, Board Member
Mia Damiani, Board Member
Jenny Diaz, Board Member
Brian Heath, EMO
Mikii Bendotti, EMO
CJ Bower, EMO
Nancey Carter, EMO Board Liaison

Absent:

No members of the public present

1. Call to order and roll call by Harriet Caruso @8:35 am.
2. Mike Gantt moved to approve Draft Meeting Minutes from November board meeting and Jenny Diaz 2nd the motion; all in favor, so moved.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Board Business
 - a) Recruiting Update
 - b) Mr. Heath, from the EMO, will be meeting with Adrian Vyas on 2/4 and will discuss his interest in joining the Board as a non-voting, student board liaison membership.

Ms. Diaz requested his full participation in the monthly board meetings as a stipulation of joining, if Mr. Vyas is still interested in joining the Board.

Mr. Gantt asked that further discussion ensue at the next board meeting, after Mr. Heath is able to meet with him.

- c) Documents still required for Chuck Holinka. Mr. Gantt will follow up with Chuck for required documents.
- d) With Mr. McBride's resignation, recruitment is imperative to continue to carry the proper amount of board members.

Ms. Diaz indicated the need for a skill spreadsheet and said she would send out to the board. Ms. Carter, from the EMO, will send out the existing skill spreadsheet so it can be updated by the new board members.

- e) Annual Board Retreat scheduled during the next board meeting, but moved to the following week (Tuesday, 2/25). Retreat location to be determined. Direction from board for potential topics to cover:
 - 1. Restructuring
 - 2. Prioritize issues and how board can resolve
 - 3. Financial
 - 4. Alternative School protocol
 - 5. Student Achievement
 - 6. Bills affecting charter schools

EMO will provide a *dashboard* for the board that corresponds to the board's duties and the school's achievements/needed improvements.

- f) Ms. Diaz made a motion to accept Barry McBride's resignation from the Board but he will be retained as the Charter Holder until he meets with the AZ Charter Board today; Mr. Gantt 2nd the motion, all in favor, so moved.
- g) Ms. Diaz to provide summary of the Pay as You Go Program for the board's review.

- 5. Financial Report given by Ms. CJ Bower, CFO for the EMO, covering the Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows.

- a) Title I is approved and ready to be pulled down. State is moving to a new system.
- b) Bus service ends on 2/5/14. Daily bus passes are given out. For students who consistently come to school, they are given 15-day passes.

- 6. School Report— Mikii Bendotti/Harriet Caruso (Information/Discussion)

- a) School Update Summary/Overview
 - a. Need to revisit application to work toward compliance.
 - b. Student count is approximately 207.
 - c. Three teacher positions open which may impact testing.
 - d. Friday school is being implemented based on the AIMS scores. Sophomore prep class is also being run.
 - e. Copier needs to be functional; information gathering to resolve issue. Ms. Diaz is going to see if she can procure suggestions about repairing or purchasing a new copier.

Flu season posing a problem because of reduced staff numbers.

7. Student Achievement and State Reporting—Mikii Bendotti and Harriet Caruso (Information/Discussion)

- a) Curriculum and Instruction training from Plato to assist teachers in building stronger curriculum.
- b) MAP/AIMS scores upward movement and Math and Writing; Reading trended downward.
- c) Professional Development is ongoing; teachers are continuing to improve strategies.
- d) State Reporting is completed for 40th Day; attendance is being uploaded, as required. Everything is currently in compliance.

Alternative School status opens March 1st. Need to do an evaluation presentation to the State Board of Education

- e) AZ CSP grant is being worked on and is due 1/29/14.

8. Identify future agenda items: none at this time.

Adjournment at 9:50 am by board consensus.

Minutes transcribed by Nancey Carter for Ms. Harriet Caruso. ##