

Meeting Minutes
 Southwest Leadership Governing Board
 Tuesday, October 15, 2013
 8:30-10:30 AM
 Via Webex

In attendance:

Harriet Caruso, Board President
 Mike Gantt, Board Secretary
 Barry McBride, Board Treasurer
 Mia Damiani, Potential Board Member
 Cole Arnold, EMO
 Mikii Bendotti, EMO
 Mark Yockus, 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. Draft Meeting Minutes from the 8.27.13 Board meeting-Mike Gantt moved to approve, Barry McBride 2nd; all in favor, so moved.
3. Public Comment-none received.
4. Board Business
 - a. Recruiting Update (Information/Discussion/Action)
 1. Review status of Ms. Jenny Diaz and Ms. Myriam Villareal's documents

Several items missing; Nancey Carter to follow up with both regarding items still needed. Mike Gantt moved to table until next meeting once all documents are received, sent to the Charter Board and subsequently approved; Barry McBride 2nd.
 2. Further discussion of Adrian Vyas as non-voting, student board liaison membership. Mr. McBride moved to table further discussion.
 3. Review and consideration of Ms. Mia Diamani for Board membership

Mia Diamani introduced herself to the Board and indicated why she seeks Board membership. Once Ms. Diamani submits her resume, her paperwork will be sent to the Charter Board for approval. Mr. McBride made a motion to accept Ms. Diamani as a Board candidate; Mr. Gantt 2nd, all in favor, so moved.
 - b) Logo Decision (Discussion/Action)

The winning logo was #2, as voted on by the majority of the Board. Mike Gantt moved to accept version #2 as Southwest Leadership Academy's new logo; Barry McBride 2nd, all in favor, so moved.



5. Financial Review—Financials for September were reviewed and discussed by Cole. Currently on track with where the budget needs to be.
6. School Report—Mark Yockus
 - a. School Update Summary/Overview: Teachers/students have just returned from break.
 - b. Student Count is currently around 303 in Powerschool; schedules for new Block have been handed out; population includes 29 ELL students and 28 SPED students.
 - c. Personnel/Staffing: None mentioned.
 - d. Calendar: Mr. Yockus will know by November whether or not to cancel the bus service.
 - e. Needs/Concerns: Looking into SchoolReach, but being held up because of IT issues. AP system currently in place in not operational so must be fixed because of safety aspects.

Mr. Gantt asked if there is any way to accelerate and EMO specified the cost would be around \$12K. Cell phones are being used in the interim until a resolution is reached.

Will put in for a new phone system through eRate so it will have the capability of being its own intercom.
7. Student Achievement and State Reporting—Mikii Bendotti and Harriet Caruso (Information/Discussion)
 - a) Curriculum and Instruction—doing informal observations in the classroom using the teacher evaluation instrument. Met with teachers and their goal for the year is to design a curriculum map accommodate students that SLA serves.

Mike Gantt asked if they were doing in-service training for the teachers. Ms. Bendotti indicated that by the end of this month, she would be able to sign a certificate for teachers saying they completed 72 hours of training.

Ms. Caruso asked if there is a codified curriculum; Ms. Bendotti and Mr. Yockus indicated there is not and there are no curriculum maps done. Ms. Bendotti is waiting for curriculum maps from Tracy Bennett-Joseph.

b) AZELLA testing-catching up as many students were not tested last year. AIMS testing is going on, but having issues with students attending. Ms. Bendotti will report MAP test scores during the next meeting.

c) Professional Development

Lesson Planning design broken into pieces to address SEI needs. Starting first round of teacher evaluation so teachers can grow. Continually developing Special Education training. Also working to make teachers comfortable with the new teacher evaluation instrument.

d) State Reporting

1. Policies/procedures for adoption

Ms. Caruso suggested SLA submit their policies to ASBA, they would put them together based on statutes and federal law, and then deliver to SLA in a formal Policy and Procedures manual.

Ms. Caruso also asked that this be discussed with Tracy Joseph-Bennett (Education Director) to make sure that the ASBA P&P Manual can also translate across the Education Department for Charter Schools. While many will be different, quite a few will be the same federally and an overall manual can be put in place.

Mark Yockus indicated he would share the existing Emergency Evacuation and School Emergency Plan with the Board.

Ms. Caruso recommended Mr. Gantt be involved in the planning process if engaging ASBA in the P&P creation process.

Ms. Bendotti working with EMO to finalize the Teacher Evaluation Tool. First round of teacher evaluations are scheduled to be completed the first week of November.

e) Accreditation Advanced-ED

Fee paid and application sent in to NCA. Once the survey is completed, NCA will have someone come out and visit to give initial approval for accreditation. Ms. Caruso indicated we could be accredited this year, it just needs to be done. Mr. Gantt asked this be done as soon as possible.

8. Identify future agenda items. (Discussion/Action)

Discuss AP System status; decision on continuing bus service.

Revisit discussion of Adrian Vyas.

Presentation of the Teacher evaluation tool outcomes; presentation of Principal Evaluation Tool and Policies & Procedures for Board review.

Presentation of the NCA Survey Outcomes by Mark Yockus, as well as progress toward accreditation.

9. No public comment received. Harriet Caruso made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mike Gantt 2nd the motion, all in favor, so moved. Meeting adjourned at 9:53.

Minutes scribed by Nancey Carter for Harriet Caruso.

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