

Meeting Minutes

Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

8:30-10:00 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
Tammy Lancaster, 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

1. AZ Charter Board approved membership status for Ms. Jenny Diaz, Ms. Myriam Villareal and Ms. Mia Diamani.
2. Further discussion of Adrian Vyas as non-voting, student board liaison membership is moved to January's BOD meeting.
3. Documents still required for Chuck Holinka. Mr. Gantt will follow up with Chuck for required documents.

Ms. Caruso indicated the ideal number for board members is five to seven, especially for Open Meeting Law requirements when meeting outside of the BOD meetings and for a quorum. Mr. Gantt agreed and added the need for diverse experience.

4. Board discussed ongoing recruiting for additional Board members as the desired number of members is five to seven with varied backgrounds that can bring additional expertise to the Board. Ms. Caruso asked that the Board consider what category of expertise is needed to help create a well-rounded board.

5. Financial Report given by Tammy Lancaster, covering the Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows.
 - a) Grant funding has been recorded and will be coming in shortly. SPED funding should be received shortly. Title I and II have been submitted; should be approved by Christmas or New Years.
 - b) Potential of bringing TOP Program in-house for next school year discussed by Jenny Diaz. Is evidence based and substantiated numbers in teen pregnancy prevention and reduced drop out rate. Funding is only available for one more year.

Website is the National Wyman Center and the program is Teen Outreach Program. Mr. Heath asked Ms. Bendotti to look into SLA incorporating the class as an elective.

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

- a) School Update Summary/Overview

- a. Resubmitted the NCA accreditation packet with the survey outcomes that were administered to the staff.
- b. Progress toward accreditation-submit the report in its entirety and then NCA will set up a site visit. Will be in the first phase by the end of the school year.
- c. Robocall is working and fire drill completed. Dr. Fowler is completing the backup of an emergency lock down drill. Mr. Gantt volunteered to train staff in emergency alert procedures and plan. He also asked that daily announcements be consistent.
- d. Bus service will end 2/5/14. They would still like to work with SLA if the need for extra transportation arises.

- b) Student Count is currently 325 enrolled and 205 attending; although, 249 attending two weeks ago. Dalia Lockhart from the Youth in Transition program is delivering a presentation to the SLA Leadership Team to help address eliminating barriers for students to come to school.

Potential influx of students based on schools sending letters home to parents for failing students to consider sending students to a different school.

- c) Personnel/Staffing

- a. Mark Yockus has transferred back to CSA. Principal search is ongoing. Ms. Mikii Bendotti is currently the Interim Principal and has many years of experience as a principal.

Board will be involved in reviewing resumes and the interview process on potential candidates.

d) Calendar of Activities

Student field day and Award Assembly on Thursday. Grades mailed this quarter. Ram's Lounge will be set up for students as an incentive to maintain positive force field analysis.

e) Needs/Concerns

Need for literature sets for the classroom/library and science lab equipment. New science instructor looking for science "parts" for anatomy.

7. Student Achievement and State Reporting—Mikii Bendotti and Harriet Caruso

a) Curriculum and Instruction-curriculum maps are still being developed.

b) AIMS scores-Ms. Bendotti stated that first round of scores is being disaggregated. Reading is neutral; math is going up and writing is also going up in scores. Juniors and Seniors who are retaking are the only scores available at this time.

c) Professional Development is ongoing; 72 hours of staff development completed. Teacher evaluation instrument now being used. Based on results, teachers need development in student engagement and content.

d) State Reporting

1. Attendance and needs are being reported to the State.

2. Policies and Procedures Manual has been developed; a few more need to be added; needs to be finalized.

8. Identify future agenda items

Identify annual retreat date for the Board. Mike Gantt moved that Mr. McBride be invited to the retreat to assist with strategic planning.

Decision on Charter signer once Barry McBride resigns from the Board.

Introduce Chuck Holinka to the Board. Discuss Adrian Vyas for Board membership.

9. Adjournment at 10:40 by Harriet Caruso.

Minutes transcribed by Nancey Carter for Harriet Caruso. ##