

Meeting Minutes

Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

8:30-10:30 AM

In attendance:

Mike Gantt, Board Member
Charles Holinka, Board Member
Jenny Diaz, Board Member
Myriam Villarreal, Board Member
Mia Damiani, Board Member
CJ Bower, EMO
Brian Heath, EMO
Greg Fowler, EMO
Mikii Bendotti, EMO
Nancey Carter, EMO

No members of the public present

1. Call to order and roll call by Mike Gantt @8:45 am.
2. Charles Holinka moved to approve the May Draft Meeting Minutes; Myriam Villarreal 2nd the motion, all in favor, so moved.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Board Business
 - a. Recruiting Update: Dr. Fowler knows a parent that could potentially be recruited who was a student; Ms. Diaz knows someone in law enforcement. Dr. Fowler identified the business owner across the street as a potential board member and also as a resource to help with CTE relating to electronic chips.

Mr. Gantt is going to discuss Board opportunities with Black Board of Directors. Also need law enforcement representation and perhaps a representative relating to group homes.

Charter application calls for 5-7 members on the board.

Fingerprint card still pending for Mr. Holinka so he can be added as new board member on AZ Charter website.

- a) Policy Manuals are in process.
- b) Use of Board approved logo on all marketing and collateral materials relating to the school.

Mr. Gantt asked if there is a negative association of SLA being misconstrued

as a residential facility. Dr. Fowler and Mr. Holinka both expressed that SLA's association with ROP is not negative because of the reputation that ROP has through Canyon State Academy.

Ms. Bower stated that ROP is not the "parent" company, but the Education Management Company and does not have a negative stigma, but one of credibility. Ms. Diaz included that as a parent, especially if you have a student that is not doing well, she would look at SLA's association with ROP as a good place for her child to have a structured educational environment. Ms. Villarreal added that SLA's zip code is identified as the highest removal rate of juvenile delinquents; therefore, many of the students are remanded to CSA and then to SLA as they are remediated.

Ms. Bendotti indicated that having the alternative label enables the school to be measured based on the students that SLA enrolls, which are often very credit deficient.

Not on the Agenda: Mr. Holinka and Mr. Gantt attended a SPED workshop and suggested that everyone share workshop opportunities so board attendance is possible.

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

Ms. Bower indicated that returning teachers should be notified that they need to enrol in 401K, if they want to be in the program.

- a. The Board reviewed the FY 2015 budget. Per pupil revenue went down this year, roughly \$30-40K less. No changes on the PCR. Ms. Bendotti identified the ACT test to be put into the budget to put students on career track and post-secondary opportunities. Ms. Bower reviewed the changes made from last month. Additional monies moved into line for substitute teachers. Ms. Diaz motioned to approve the budget, Mr. Holinka 2nd; all in favor, budget approved and will be sent out to all the board members.

- b. Ms. Bower suggested checking auctions and warehouses for used furniture. Saturday, 6/7 is school furniture auction.

6. School Report by Mr. Fowler and Ms. Bendotti.

- a. Ended year with 36 graduates, 11 of which are employed, 8 pursuing higher education; student handbook will be done by next month. 11 students credited out working on Plato-they came to school and received one-on-one instruction.

Ramping up on CTE programs and certifications. Working on school improvements to build morale. Computers and printers received. Soccer and cross-country going to be offered in the next school year.

- b. Cap for total students is 325 per charter agreement. Mr. Holinka explained how it works with student/teacher/budget ratio.
- c. School grade is still pending. Staff anticipate a C or D, based on ADE standards, AIMS scores, and as part of the Alternative School Consortium.
- d. Next year's calendar/schedule will be revised to mirror Phoenix USD and mandated instructional days; adding a homeroom during the week to ensure students know where they are in their academic plan. Ms. Bendotti submitting to AZ Charter Board.
- e. Accreditation is expected at the end of the second quarter of 2015.
- f. Currently, all teachers returning. Ten teachers on contract; Dr. Fowler went through the PCR of all staff at the school for the next year. Only shortage is a SPED teacher.

STEPS is working through the SPED programmatic elements to ensure our compliance with Federal requirements. Mr. Gantt suggested everyone read the piece Amy Silverman wrote for *NewTimes* which chronicles the challenges in finding an appropriate SPED teacher for students with IEPs.

Ms. Bendotti explained the expenses that are involved with providing SPED services to students, above and beyond the IEP and the importance of testing.

- i. Teacher pay school presented to the board. Jenny moved to approve the salary pay scale, Myriam Villarreal 2nd the motion; all approved, so moved.
- g. Needs/Purchases. Mr. Holinka would like to see a "wish list" that is prioritized.
 - i. FFEs-only purchase within what's left in the budget.
 - ii. Signage-needs to have the new logo on it; should not include ROP or Alternative designation.
 - iii. Website needs to be redesigned to reflect real-time.

7. Future Agenda Items:

- i. Student Handbook is completed and being reviewed for formatting and editing.
- ii. Teen outreach program (TOP) by the County grant will be discussed further. Ms. Rodriguez is an approved facilitator.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am by board consensus.

Minutes transcribed by Nancey Carter for Mr. Mike Gantt. ##