

Meeting Minutes
Southwest Leadership Academy Governing
Board Tuesday, September 23, 2014
8:30-10:30 AM

In attendance:

Mike Gantt, Board Member (via phone)
Charles Holinka, Board Member (via phone)
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 (via phone)

No members of the public present

1. Call to order and roll call by Mike Gantt @8:33 am.
2. Jenny Diaz moved to approve the June/July/August Draft Meeting Minutes; Chuck Holinka 2nd the motion, all in favor, so moved.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Board Business
 - a. Mr. Holinka is anticipating receiving fingerprint card any day now and will update his status during the next meeting.
 - b. Recruiting Update: Ms. Diaz identified Tara Laurie: Maricopa County Facilitator for Streets of Success Program. Ms. Diaz will send out Ms. Laurie's resume to the board.
 - c. Charter application calls for 5-7 members on the board. Mia Damiani moved to change the Bylaws to seven members; Jenny Diaz 2nd the motion, all in favor, so moved.

Ms. Diaz wanted to discuss consequences for lack of attendance to board meetings. Mr. Gantt suggested board members try harder to attend, even by phone. Mr. Heath suggested an alternative model of meeting quarterly in-person and monthly by phone. Advisory calendar to be sent out to board, as well as poll on best meeting time/day.
 - d. United Food Bank Mobile Pantry was discussed and board members and EMO agreed the service would benefit the community and coverage is possible by school staff.

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

Ms. Diaz asked about bus passes; Dr. Fowler indicated we do single day bus passes because students when 15-day and 30-day bus passes were handed out, students did not always come back after two days. Discussed using longer passes as an incentive for students who come every day.

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

- a. Tabling 2014-2015 School Update/Overview until next in-person attendance.
- b. Student count is currently at 292; averaging about 3 new students a day. Average daily attendance is between 175 and 180.
- c. Recruiting for a science teacher; currently have a substitute.
- d. Soccer and Boxing are in full swing-about 50 student involved. Student Council had 50 students sign up; 15 ran for office. Recently had their first dance and everyone had a wonderful time; parents also attended. Before Christmas Break, going to have another dance and Drive-In Night.
- e. Period 4 added to the schedule to accommodate students who work or take care of family members and are unable to get to school at 8am. This will assist with increasing attendance rate and allowing students to finish their classes. Overall, minutes are in-line with state requirements and with alternative school schedules.

Jenny Diaz moved to approve the amended school schedule; Mia Damiani 2nd the motion, all in favor, so moved.

- f. Getting ready to harness 301 monies and reinforce Title I for Friday school. Doing individualized advisement to help seniors graduate. Ms. Diaz suggested having student council motivate students to come to Friday school. Gift card incentives have also been suggested. Tara Laurie would be a great resource to help obtain gift cards.

Public funds cannot be used to purchase gift cards, but any fundraising monies can be used to purchase. Ms. Bower will check to see if catering rent monies can be used to purchase gift cards.

- g/i. Submitted all NSLP documents and they were accepted. In a holding pattern with AZ. Should be another two weeks. Will also be able to get dollars through the beginning of the year once everything is in place. Also getting Title I budget in place.

Financial audit currently going on; auditor was on-site for three days.

Evening Reporting Center (ERC)-ROP awarded a contract to provide an evening learning center. Will sub-lease two classrooms in the school building for evenings and weekends.

- j. AdvanceEd preparation is on target. Team will be out in March for accreditation tour.
- k. Jenny Diaz completed the hearing screenings. SPED student issues have been addressed. Everyone did pass. Ms. Diaz is also certified to do the vision screenings. Ms. Diaz will complete that within the next month or so. Dr. Fowler is looking at hiring a behavior mentor with medical credentials to continue the screenings and be an on-site medical resource. State requires an RN to administer services to students in school; however, this same certification is not needed for the screenings.

7. Future Agenda Items:

EMO following up on opportunities to expand the district model by expanding the SLA charter. Ms. Bendotti will be meeting with the Arizona Charter Board for clearer direction on expanding. Mr. Gantt suggested the EMO continue to pursue reasonable options for expansion initiatives when SLA is ready.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am by board consensus.

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