

**Final Meeting Minutes**  
Southwest Leadership Governing  
Thursday, April 11, 2013  
8:00-9:00 AM  
Via Webex

**In attendance:**

Hariet Caruso, Board President  
Mike Gantt, Board Secretary  
Barry McBride, Board Treasurer  
Brian Heath, Executive Director  
Nancey Carter, Board Liaison

No members of the public present.

1. Call to order and roll call by Hariet Caruso @8:05 am.
2. Mike Gantt made a motion that the Draft Meeting Minutes from 1.10.13 Board Meeting be approved; Barry McBride 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so approved.
3. Discussion of signing Charter Contract.

Barry McBride is the charter representative and will make the appointment to sign the charter. Nancey Carter will forward all the charter info to the board for next steps.

4. Discussion of New Board Member Recruitment.

Brian Heath indicated that Mikki Bendotti has accepted a position with ROP and is therefore no longer eligible to be on the Board. Since she was not able to attend the meeting, she verbally submitted her resignation through Mr. Heath.

Mike Gantt moved that Mikki Bendotti's resignation be accepted; Ms. Caruso 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so approved.

Hariet Caruso may be accepting a position with ROP which brings a sense of urgency to developing the board.

Virginia Balzac, former Deputy Director of DES, has expressed interest in joining the board.

Dotty Wodraska was also interested in becoming a board member; however, her position poses a conflict of interest so she will not be joining the board.

Mike Gantt asked if we had a marketing piece to hand out to potential board members; Nancey Carter indicated she would put together something they could hand out.

Barry McBride stated the need to target people in specific industries; Ms. Caruso identified the need for choosing board members that has experience in fundraising and obtaining investors.

Barry McBride indicated Peter Francis (from CSA Board) as an option for a board member; Harriet Caruso identified Margaret Trujillo (District Judge) as another potential Board member and will reach out to her.

Mike Gantt asked if law enforcement was a desired industry for a board member; Board was amenable so Mr. Gantt will reach out to a contact he has.

Ms. Caruso also recommended contacting David Gaspar as another potential board member and will attempt to contact him.

Mr. Gantt recommended Art Hamilton, Ms. Caruso said to mention both her name and Margaret Trujillo's name. Mike Gantt also mentioned Jim Walsh, attorney, as a possible board member.

Brian Heath mentioned the need to also bring in local business owners to assist SLA students in gaining employment. Barry McBride mentioned John Cavness as a potential board member as a business person right in the school's neighborhood.

5. Review and feedback on Logo.

Nancey Carter put all the logos up for the Board members to review and Brian Heath indicated the rationale of the logo. Ms. Carter will email all the logos out to the Board for further review.

Mike Gantt and Harriet Caruso asked that Southwest be spelled out rather than abbreviated. Mr. Gantt asked for the files so he could pass by his son who is an advertising agency creative director. Ms. Caruso also indicated a preference for the version that has a variation of the same color. Brian Heath also mentioned that staying with fewer colors would be beneficial when reproducing on clothing.

Ms. Carter will email all versions and collect the feedback from the Board.

6. EMO Report by Brian Heath:

Mr. Heath stated that Rite of Passage entered into a partnership with Mission Charter and moved the school to the new Fillmore location. That location has a lease agreement with ROP. Mission Charter submitted a renewal for their charter, but only applying for K-8. Next year, Mission Charter will become Southwest Leadership Academy and will invite all the teachers and students back. Brian Heath also indicated he had every confidence that almost 100% of both teachers and students will come back to SLA.

a. Average attendance

Between 230 and 240

b. Personnel updates

Mikki Bendotti has been hired as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Rebecca Brunner has been hired as the HR Manager and will start on 4/29/13. She has been hired through ROP to be a District HR Manager to the school.

Brian Heath recommended Mark Yockus for the position of SLA Principal as he has been the acting Principal since the acquisition of Mission and has expressed interest in

remaining the Principal for SLA. He was also the Principal at Canyon State Academy. Hariet Caruso made the motion to accept the EMO's recommendation of Mark Yockus as SLA Principal; Mike Gantt 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so moved.

Board will be involved in the hiring of key positions, but the Principal will be responsible hiring teachers and behavior mentors; Board will review and approve all the contracts and contract renewals.

Mr. McBride signed off at 9:03am.

Motion made Hariet Caruso to address fiscally within the budget the creation of a new position for SLA at the District level which was not originally put into the budget. Approximately 50% of this position would be paid by Title I funds. Mike Gantt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; all in favor, so moved.

c. Planning process update

Already underway. Ms. Caruso wants to be involved with the enrollment process, and that Title I is going to be putting out funding for summer school. Mission should get in on this. Mike Gantt indicated the desire to be informed of each part of the process so they can contribute valuable input and make sound decisions for the school.

**Question for CJ:** Can Mission sell their FFE to Southwest Leadership Academy?

d. Student surveys

Students surveyed about their satisfaction with teachers and behavior mentors and the teacher approval rating was no lower than 97% with many teachers rating as high as 100%. During the Education Summit, the student panel expressed their happiness with the new Mission model and felt safe and cared about by the adults at the school

Mike Gantt stated his support for the behavior mentor model as a successful element within the school structure.

**Follow up for Brian:** Board members would like to see the compilation of survey data. Mike Gantt suggested Brian explore Rocketship Education as another successful model for students.

e. Teacher contracts

Discussed in Personnel updates.

f. Education Summit update

Mike Gantt and Hariet Caruso found it very helpful. Nancey Carter to compile a list of all Board Members from each school and their contact info, then send out to the Board.

g. School field update

Will need to hydro seed at the Fillmore location in order to run athletic programs and draw people from the community in.

h. Food Service review

Complete turnaround with new catering contract for SLA.

i. Activities update

Trying to organize a football team for the fall. Very expensive to start up, so requesting donations from other ROP facilities. Ms. Caruso asked if any activities were geared toward girls and Brian Heath identified the soccer team as co-ed as well as having a girls' power club that does fundraising and is planning a trip to 6-Flags.

Prom is also scheduled and a local organization is donating free prom dresses to all the girls. Ms. Caruso stated there's an agency, **Last Chance**, that will help boys get tuxes, shirts, pants, etc. and they are inexpensive.

Hariet Caruso asked if Mission is NCA Accredited because it is vital for students' credits to transfer over; Brian responded no, but Mikki Bendotti is working on that for Southwest Leadership Academy.

7. Identify future agenda items.

Review list of signed contracts for SLA  
 Report back on the logo and vote on one  
 Put together list of new board members  
 Nancey Carter to put together marketing piece to hand out to potential board members  
 Barry McBride to sign charter and then identify next steps  
 Continue with agendaizing EMO Report  
 Mike Gantt requested Rebecca Brunner's resume

8. Adjournment.

Hariet Caruso moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 am; Mike Gantt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, so moved.

Minutes scribed by Nancey Carter for Hariet Caruso.

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