

Board of Education Agenda- Southwest Leadership Academy

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2019 REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE SOUTHWEST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 38-431.02, notice was given to the public, that the Governing Board for Southwest Leadership Academy will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 10:30 A.M. (MST) at Southwest Leadership Academy located at 4301 West Fillmore Street, Phoenix, AZ 85403. Members of the public were invited to attend and to speak at the meeting either by phone or in person.

- 1. Call to order and roll call:** (Board President: Mike Gantt called the meeting to order It 10:37 AM. Present were President Mike Cantt, Vice President Ruben Olivas, Secretary/Treasurer Mark Hendershot, Board member Terry Hines and telephonically, Board member Brian Heath.
- 2. Introduction of Visitors:** Dr. Greg Fowler (Principal), Dr. Philip Geiger (Superintendent), Nancey Carter (Compliance Officer) and telephonically, Paula Signorelli (Director of Business Operations,

- 3. Approval of September 17, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.**

Motion: Mr. Olivas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gantt to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2019 Board meeting attached. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Finance– Paula Signorelli - Review September, October and November 2019 Financial Reports**

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Heath to receive the September, October and November 2019 financial reports as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Receipt of Annual School Audit –** The Board previously received the annual audit for FY19 which was reviewed by Ms. Signorelli. The audit was a clean financial audit but there were three notations on the legal questionnaire which were addressed and are being corrected.

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Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Olivas, seconded by Ms. Hines to receive the FY19 audit and compliance questionnaire as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

- 6. Southwest Leadership Academy Awarded “B” School Status-** Nancey Carter discussed the criteria for the A-F scores that the Department of Education used to identify the ratings for alternative schools. Dr. Fowler reviewed those changes in the program and the school’s practices that he felt made the difference moving the school from a “D” rated school to a “B” including the Beyond Textbooks curriculum, Saturday school, Project Based Learning, increased student engagement and implantation of current programs with fidelity.

The Board complimented the administration and staff for a highly successful year. No action was taken.

- 7. Update regarding Board Policies –** Several policies have been reviewed that are not addressed by ROP’s policies (sections I, K, and L) that were provided for the Board’s consideration. The first are those that are related to education, school community relations and education agency relations. Both Ms. Carter and Carter and Dr. Geiger reviewed these and they are not contradictory of any ROP education policy, mostly because ROP has very few education policies. Dr. Geiger indicated that if the Board approves these on first reading at the December Board meeting, then the Board and others have the chance to further comment or amend them before the Board approves the policies on a second and final reading at the next board meeting.

Mr. Heath commented that it was his fault that Rite of Passage has not yet reviewed the policies and requested that policy adoption, on the first reading be delayed until the March 17, 2020 board meeting. Mr. Gantt asked if the Board policy committee could meet in early January and have a board vote in January. Mr. Heath said that it may be a good idea to have the committee review policy but that he felt it would be bet to delay consideration by the Board until March 17. Mr. Olivas concurred. Mr. Hendershot said that he felt that we should proceed with the policies as we had a deadline to complete them this year.

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Mr. Gantt said that he would like to request that the Board's policy committee composed of Mr. Hendershot and Mr. Gantt meet with the administration to do additional work on the policies but agreed to defer board consideration until March 17, 2020.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Ms. Hines to defer voting on proposed board policies until March 17, 2020. Messrs. Gantt, Olivas and Heath voted in the affirmative as did Ms. Hines and Mr. Hendershot abstained. Motion passed.

8. **Approval of Tutoring Contract** – Dr. Geiger reminded the Board that the school had significant success adding a tutoring program last year. At that time the school contracted with One on One Learning. The received a proposal from EES Arizona and One on One Learning that submitted the lowest bid at \$40 per hour, 5.5 hours per day M-Th and 4 hrs. per day Friday (SLA has half days on Fridays). Dr. Geiger said that the proposed tutoring program would run from 1/6/19 to 5/15 with two tutors are a total cost of \$33,600 paid from Title 1 funds.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Gantt to authorize the superintendent to execute an agreement with One on One Learning for tutoring from 1/6/20-5/15/20 at the total cost of \$33,600 with the understanding that there is a Title I allocation for \$35,000 allocated to pay this cost. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Approval of Dual Enrollment Agreement for FY20 –Dr. Geiger indicated that he** met with representatives of the Maricopa County Community College District, which has determined that several of our teachers are qualified to teach dual enrollment classes to our students. The attached agreement indicates that we are working towards Spring enrollment. Dr. Geiger said that it was the school's intention to offer one course this semester, most likely a business course, which will be offered in a 7th period and that the school pay the full tuition of \$85 per credit hour plus \$15 registration. The agreement with the college also includes compensation from MCCS to the school when a course is offered.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Olivas, seconded by Mr. Hendershot to approve the dual enrollment agreement with the Maricopa Community Colleges for the FY 20 school year and authorize the superintendent to execute this agreement on behalf of the Board and further to authorize the

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superintendent to enter into a subsequent agreement for the FY21 school year this spring. The motion passed unanimously.

- 10. Approval of Revisions to the Performance Based Pay Teacher Rubric for 301 Funds** – Dr. Geiger indicated that the administration has seen greater compliance and attention to requirements such as lesson planning and use of handbooks if they are identified in the 301 Performance matrix and therefore adjusted the proposed criteria to include those new items while modifying the dollar award for others so that the total dollars per quarter do not change.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Olivas to approve the revised Performance Based Pay Teacher Rubric for 301 funds effective January 1, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

- 11. Review of the Management Agreement with Rite of Passage** – At the last Board meeting the board approved a motion to appoint Mike Gantt, Mark Hendershot, and Terry Hines to the Management Agreement Review Committee to provide recommended changes for the Board to consider at its March 17, 2020 regularly scheduled board meeting. Their report is due at the next board meeting.

Ms. Signorelli said that Ms. CJ Bower, ROP CFO would be the point of contact to review the agreement with the Board in order to have a new agreement in place for consideration by March 17, 2020. President Gantt was fine with the recommendation and will establish a meeting. Mr. Hendershot asked about the need to advertise the meeting since there would be a board quorum. Dr. Geiger said as long as the committee meeting was advertised appropriately, the board committee of three could meet. No further action was required by the Board.

- 12. Approval of FY21 School Calendar** -The school calendar for 2020-2021 was presented to the Board. Mr. Olivas asked about having Good Friday as an additional holiday or at least a half day. Dr. Geiger noted that Fridays are half days for teacher in-service so that would also apply to Good Friday. The Board seemed satisfied maintain the half day rather than adding an additional day to the end of the school year.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Olivas, seconded by Mr. Hendershot to approve the proposed school calendar for Southwest Leadership Academy for 2020-2021 and authorize Dr. Philip Geiger to submit the calendar to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools. The motion passed unanimously.

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13. Approval for an expansion request for a second alternative high school under the Southwest Leadership Academy Charter for 2021-2022

Dr. Geiger explained that the Board previously approved submitting an expansion amendment to the State Board for Charter Schools but by authorizing the administration to proceed to prepare and submit an application to add a second charter for an alternative high school to the SLA charter we can be better prepared for the FY22 school year. Hopefully, we can submit the application this coming summer or early fall depending upon the facilities that are available.

Motion: Move to authorize the administration to authorize the submission of an expansion request for a new charter school under the SLA charter for FY22 and further authorizes Dr. Philp Geiger to submit the required documents to open at the beginning of the FY22 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Submission of School Safety Grant – Dr. Geiger advised the Board that SLA did not get approval for any of the requests submitted to the Governor’s Committee on School Safety, but we can re-apply in March 2020.

15. Principal’s Report – Dr. Fowler will present information on the professional development (Elevate) from September 2019, current academic programs, student achievement, athletics, after school clubs, evening school, student behavior, personnel, Rosetta Stone, Reading 180, Galileo, ACT and AZM2 Testing and future plans.

16. Adjournment

Next regular meeting is March 17, 2019 at 10:30 AM (MST) at Southwest Leadership Academy, 4301 West Fillmore Street, Phoenix, AZ 85043.

Future meetings are: March 17, 2020; May 5, 2020 (Board Retreat and Meeting); June 23, 2020 and other special meetings as called by the President

Graduation is May 20, 2020 at the Glendale Civic Center starting at 6:30 PM.