

# Board of Education Minutes- Southwest Leadership Academy June 23, 2020

## MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2020 SOUTHWEST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD

According 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 meeting open to the public at Southwest Leadership Academy 4301 West Fillmore Street, Phoenix, AZ 85043.

1. Board President Michael Gantt called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM and conducted a roll call. The following Board members were present telephonically: (Board President): Mike Gantt, Mark Hendershot (Secretary/Treasurer), Ruben Olivas (Vice President), Terry Hines, and Brian Heath.
2. President Gantt had Dr. Geiger introduce other attendees who were present telephonically: Dr. Greg Fowler (Principal), Jessica Vensel (Assistant Principal), Dr. Philip Geiger (Superintendent), Paula Signorelli (Director of Business Operations), Meghan Miller (Assistant Principal for Special Programs, Nancey Carter (Compliance Officer), and Drew Ainsworth (Board Member Nominee).
3. **Approval of minutes of May 19, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Heath commented on the excellent job Mr. Olivas on chairing the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting while President Gantt was absent.

**A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Olivas to approve the minutes of May 19, 2020 board meeting attached. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Finance**– Paula Signorelli reviewed the May 2020 Financial Reports and noted that the school currently has more than \$196,000 surplus in the current budget and that the monthly expenses were slightly higher than budgeted as the administration is strategically making purchases for equipment and services needed thereby reducing the surplus.

**Board of Education Minutes- Southwest Leadership Academy  
June 23, 2020**

**A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mrs. Hines to receive the May 2020 financial reports as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 5. Public Hearing on Proposed FY21 annual school budget** – The proposed FY21 budget was available to the public to review. The board members had no comment and no member of the public was present or called into the meeting. No further action was taken by the board.
- 6. Approval of FY21 Annual School Budget** – The proposed FY21 budget had been provided to the board noting that the budget can be modified and adjusted throughout the upcoming school year by the Board. There were no questions or comments from the board members.

**A motion was made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Olivas to approve the FY21 Annual School Budget for Southwest Leadership Academy as presented. The motion passed unanimously**

- 7. Appointment Drew Ainsworth to the Southwest Leadership Board of Education** – The Board received a copy of the resume for Drew Ainsworth who has been nominated for a board position. President Gantt indicated that he was very impressed by Mr. Ainsworth's background. Mr. Heath introduced Mr. Ainsworth to the Board commenting on his commitment to at-risk youth and foster children.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Hines, seconded by Mr. Hendershot to confirm the appointment of Drew Ainsworth to a three-year term on the Southwest Leadership Board of Education effective July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023. The motion was passed unanimously.**

- 8. Reappointment of Ruben Olivas and Brian Heath to the Southwest Leadership Board of Education**

**A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mrs. Hines to approve the appointment of Mr. Olivas and Mr. Heath to three-year terms to the Southwest Leadership Board of Education effective July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board of Education Minutes- Southwest Leadership Academy**  
**June 23, 2020**

9. **Election of Officers** – Nominations for officers were submitted to the secretary and the following nominees are proposed for election by the Board members. Nominations are for Mike Gantt as president, Brian Heath as secretary/treasurer but there were no nominees for vice president.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mrs. Hines to elect Mike Gantt as board president for 2020-2021. The motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Olivas, seconded by Mrs. Hines to elect Brian Heath as secretary/treasurer for 2020-2021. The motion passed unanimously.**

10. **Update regarding Board Policies** – Additional policies are now available for review and approval by the Board. Policies will be placed on the agenda for the next public meeting of the Board. Dr. Geiger indicated that a group of policies (approximately 100 pages) are ready for Board approval at the first board meeting in the FY21 school year. Copies will be sent to the Board for review. No action was taken.

11. **Plans for Opening School on August 3, 2020** – Dr. Geiger reviewed plans to safely open the school on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Precautions being taken include the use of masks for both students and teachers which the school will provide, a modification to the class schedule to reduce interaction during the day, increased disinfecting of desks, chairs, and touchpoints daily and a major spray disinfecting of the entire school before the start of the semester. He also indicated that the school will be able to offer remote instruction to students if their parents choose not to send them to school until the COVID pandemic has subsided.

12. **Review of the Management Agreement with Rite of Passage** – At the June 2019 Board meeting, the Board approved a motion to appoint Mike Gantt and Mark Hendershot in consultation with Paula Signorelli and Barbara Ross to the Management Agreement Review Committee to provide recommended changes for the Board to consider at its March 17, 2020, regularly scheduled board meeting. Mr. Gantt acknowledged that this has not occurred and asked if there had been any changes in the agreement from the previous year. Dr. Geiger indicated that the agreement simply rolls over annually and that the time

**Board of Education Minutes- Southwest Leadership Academy  
June 23, 2020**

to make changes for the FY21 school year had expired. The agreement will be considered again for the FY22 school year later in the year.

- 13. Approval of Prop 301 Pay for Performance** – Dr. Geiger indicated that the final details for the FY21 pay for performance matrix were not yet completed and requested that the matter be tabled to the next board meeting.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Heath to table the matter until September 22, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 14. Scheduled Board Meetings for FY21** – The Board has been meeting quarterly, but President Gantt asked the Board if they had any opinions regarding the dates, the frequency of the meetings, or the time of the meetings. He asked the board members to contact the superintendent with their preferences. The dates recommended for the FY 21 meetings were September 22, 2020; December 15, 2020; March 23, 2021 (plus retreat) @ 5:30 PM at The University Club, Phoenix; and June 29, 2021.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded Mrs. Hines to set the date of the next Board meeting for September 22, 2020, and to consider the other meeting dates following the receipt of recommendations from board members. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 15. Approval of Lease Agreement with the Isaac School District-** Dr. Geiger advised the board that although the agreement with the Isaac School District is with ROP and SLA is a subtenant, it is important that the Board understands and agrees to the terms of the agreement as these terms and conditions are passed through the SLA board.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hendershot, seconded by Mr. Olivas to approve the attached Facilities Use Agreement between Rite of Passage and the Isaac School District # 5. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Board of Education Minutes- Southwest Leadership Academy June 23, 2020**

**16. Principal's Report** – Dr. Fowler asked Mr. Heath to comment on the progress of securing an expansion school that the Board had authorized previously. Mr. Heath said that he and Dr. Fowler had visited a possible site and that Dr. Geiger and Ms. Signorelli are working on a proforma budget for the school. He indicated that further information would be forthcoming and would be provided to the Board. Dr. Fowler then began his presentation regarding school initiatives but due to technical difficulties could not present the entire report. Dr. Fowler will present information on the professional development (teacher in-service), current academic programs, student achievement, athletics, after school clubs, evening school, student behavior, personnel, Beyond Textbooks, Project Based Learning, Trauma Based Training, the new School Social Worker, the New Art Program, Rosetta Stone, Reading 180, Galileo, ACT and AZM2 Testing and plans for FY21. Dr. Fowler will present this information to the board in writing via a separate communique.

**17. Gratitude for Service to the School and the Board** – Today is Mark Hendershot's last Board meeting as his term expires June 30, 2020, and he has indicated that he has retired and does not wish to continue to serve on the Board. During his three year term, Mr. Hendershot has been an invaluable member of the Board focused on student performance, financial responsibility, policy development, and support for the new initiatives that have enabled the school to move its ranking from a D school to B school. Mr. Hendershot has served the board admirably with total commitment, enthusiasm, and expertise. Dr. Geiger indicated that an appropriate award has been prepared for Mr. Hendershot and will be forwarded to his home shortly.

**A motion was made by Mr. Gantt, seconded by Mr. Heath to extend the appreciation of the Board and the School Administration to Mark Hendershot for his incredible contributions to the Board of Education of Southwest Leadership Academy from 2017-2020. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **18. Announcements**

**The next Board meeting is September 22, 2020, at Southwest Leadership Academy.**

**SCHOOL STARTS – August 3, 2020**

**Board of Education Minutes- Southwest Leadership Academy  
June 23, 2020**

**THE PROM** – We plan on holding a Prom for the Class of 2020 when possible this fall or winter.

**GRADUATION OF THE CLASS OF 2020 YEARBOOK.** We still plan on a formal graduation ceremony either August 20<sup>th</sup> or a later date depending upon the guidelines of the AZ Department of Health and the CDC.

**19. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM.