

Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting- October 15, 2021 Southwest Leadership Academy

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 meeting open to the public at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, October 15, 2020. One or more Board members participated telephonically. The meeting took place at Southwest Leadership Academy 4301 West Fillmore Street, Phoenix, AZ 85043.

The notice also provided a ZOOM call in number for board members and the public.

- 1. Call to order and roll call:** Brian Heath called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM (MST). Present telephonically (Zoom) were Brian Heath (Secretary/Treasurer), Ruben Olivas, Terry Hines, Drew Ainsworth and Sean Diana. Mike Gantt (President) was absent and it was noted that he had a personal matter that he was attending to.
- 2. Introduction of Visitors:** Also present telephonically (Zoom) was Dr. Greg Fowler (Principal). Brian Heath also called on the public who may be present on Zoom but there was no response.
- 3. Explanation of Special Session:** Brian Heath thanked the Board for their attendance and reviewed the purpose for the Special Session. The Board was reminded that October 15, 2021 is the last day for Director of Education/Superintendent, Dr. Philip Geiger, at Southwest Leadership Academy and Rite of Passage. The SLA charter requires that a designee be appointed as Superintendent in Dr. Geiger's absence and that Dr. Geiger will no longer serve in the capacity as a Charter Representative.
- 4. Approval of Interim Superintendent and Removal of Charter Representative** – Brian Heath suggested that the Board consider identifying a Superintendent designee on an interim basis until the official position is recruited for in the Spring of 2022 and then selected prior to the next school year. Mr. Heath identified three potential options for the designee: Tracy Bennett-Joseph, National Director of Education for Rite of Passage; Brian Heath, Executive Director in the SW Region for Rite of Passage; Dr. Gregory Fowler, Principal of Southwest Leadership Academy. There was Board discussion surrounding the advantages/disadvantages of each. The consensus was to identify an individual as interim, continue with the recruitment plan as discussed by Mr. Heath and identify the individual who was most closely connected to the school on a day-to-day basis. Mr. Ainsworth asked if Dr. Fowler was up for the challenge and wished to serve in this capacity and it was acknowledged that he was.

A motion was made by Drew Ainsworth to officially remove Dr. Philip Geiger as the SLA Charter Representative and appoint Dr. Gregory Fowler as the Interim SLA Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Ruben Olivas and a roll call vote was taken.

**Terry Hines – Aye
Ruben Olivas – Aye
Drew Ainsworth – Aye
Sean Diana – Aye
Brian Heath - Aye**

The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Resignation of Board Member** – Mr. Ruben Olivas noticed the Board of his intentions to resign from his position. He submitted his official letter of resignation to the Board, dated 10/15/21 with a final date of service as 11/30/21. Mr. Olivas apologized for not being able to fulfill the entirety of his second term which is set to expire on 6/30/23. Mr. Olivas has honorably served the Southwest Leadership Academy Board of Education for over four years and he reported that the unique demands of the pandemic, coupled with managing three jobs and serving on two other boards has caused him to reevaluate his capacity to serve. Mr. Olivas noted that he has been proud to serve on this Board and is proud of the many achievements of the school.

A motion was made by Terry Hines to accept the resignation of Ruben Olivas and consider his service to the school as fulfilled, while also thanking him. The motion was seconded by Brian Heath and a roll call vote was taken.

**Terry Hines – Aye
Ruben Olivas – Aye
Drew Ainsworth – Aye
Sean Diana – Aye
Brian Heath - Aye**

- 6. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM (MST).