

Minutes of Board Meeting
February 18, 2020
6 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Steve Earley, John Weber, Adil Khan, Melissa Devlin, Trish Buchanan, Elizabeth Kerns, Jason Welling, Janice Jones, Stephanie Colon, Luke Markham, Chandra Frederick and Mike Brossart. Staff members present included Deborah Sulsona, Cindi Parker-Pearson, Stacy Williams-Myers and John Burton.

Approval of Minutes

Chandra Frederick chaired the meeting and called it to order at 6:00 p.m. Mike Brossart moved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 Board meeting. Stephanie Colon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Parents Report

Mary is working on the annual yearbook. She is taking pictures of students and staff as well as preparing ads that parents can purchase. The Rise & Shine for Kids event will be held Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Publix Charities Park (formerly Common Ground park) from 9a-12p. A transition workshop for parents of graduates will be held next week to help guide parents through the process of transitioning to Kindergarten.

Financial Report

Mike Brossart presented the financial report for the seven months ending January 31, 2020. We had a net increase of \$171,812 compared to a net increase of \$126,183 last fiscal year. We need a large surplus to cover the month of June when we do not receive FTE funds. Mike also reviewed a year-end projection that Deborah Sulsona prepared. If we make our goal for Top Chef, we should end the year with a net surplus.

Development Report

We received a grant from the City of Lakeland for the Community Development Block Grant for \$16,000 as well as \$40,000 from The Libertore Fund for Children foundation. Both are for the Birth to Three program.

Currently, we have over \$130k in Top Chef sponsorships. The chef/community leader drawing was held last month. The community leader/chef teams have done a great job of raising funds and awareness. Many of the teams have or will hold an event at different venues to raise additional money. Stacy shared some examples of events and Facebook posts that have been done. Please follow the Achievement Academy Facebook page if you're not already. We will have a lot of silent auction items and will also have a live musician and artist at the Top Chef event as well as a Golden Ticket drawing and the Wagon of Cheer drawing. We expect to meet our fundraising goal for Top Chef (and possibly exceed it). Thank you to everyone for their help!

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Principal's Report

FTE week was February 3-7 and we were full with 157 students. We have 54 students who are set to graduate this year and another four who may possibly graduate. Graduation dates are as follows:

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 – Winter Haven, 6-7pm

Thursday, May 14, 2020 – Bartow, 6-7pm

Monday, May 18, 2020 – Lakeland, 6-7:30pm

We are having monthly informational meetings for families on the waiting list. We currently have 125 kids on our waiting list.

Cindi has started teacher observations and evaluations. Other staff evaluations will begin in March. Teachers will begin progress reports next week.

Executive Director's Report

John has been in communication with Perry Quinn with Polk County regarding their interest in purchasing 30 feet of road frontage on our 540A property. John informed him that our property is currently under contract and that we cannot make any agreements at this time.

Cindi and John were invited by School Board member, Lisa Miller, to attend the January work session. Rob Davis, staff person over transportation, was there as well. The School Board members were very supportive and appreciative of the work Achievement Academy does but the overall feeling was that charter schools should provide their own transportation. Superintendent Jackie Byrd asked Rob Davis to meet with Cindi and John to exhaust any other options for transportation. That meeting was held last Friday. It was explained to Rob that we cannot afford to provide transportation even with the surplus buses from the district. Rob will go back to the school board with his options.

Committee Reports

The Nominating Committee met in January. They will provide a slate of officers and possible new board members at the May board meeting

Unfinished Business

Stacy Williams-Myers recognized Janice Jones, winner of the Business Woman of the Year at the Lakeland Chamber "Honors" event, whom we nominated. Although we did not win Nonprofit of the Year, it was a great honor to have been a finalist.

New Business

John Burton shared with the Executive Committee his plans to retire at the end of the fiscal year. John, with Cindi's help, is putting together a succession plan proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sulsona
Administrative Services Manager