



**Minutes of Board Meeting
January 15, 2019
6:00 p.m.**

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Karli Hughes, Luke Markham, Steve Earley, Chandra Frederick, John Weber, Mike Brossart and Michael Peeples. Staff members present included Cindi Parker-Pearson, Deborah Sulsona, Stacy Williams-Myers and John Burton. Guests in attendance were Jillyan McGraw and Adil Khan.

Approval of Minutes

Chandra Frederick chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Mike Brossart moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2018 Board meeting. Steve Earley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Board Member Induction

Chandra inducted Jillyan McGraw, parent representative, and Adil Khan as new board members. John will give them both a board manual and new member orientation. The remaining board members and staff gave quick introductions.

Parents Report

Cindi gave the parents report in Mary's absence. Mary is working on the annual yearbook. She is taking pictures of new students and staff and preparing ads that parents can purchase.

The Rise and Shine community awareness event will be held at Publix Charities park (formerly known as Common Ground Park) on March 2, 2019 from 9am-12pm. Board members are welcome to bring their families to join families and staff from all three campuses.

Mary is also organizing parent workshops.

Financial Report

Mike Brossart presented the financial report for the month ending December 31, 2018. We had a net deficit of \$93,175. Last year at this time we had a positive net income of \$361,701. The largest difference is that last year at this time we had received \$150,000 from the George Jenkins Foundation which was received in January this fiscal year and we received \$150,000 from the Clark Family Foundation. The Clark Family Foundation is still reorganizing and not accepting donation requests yet. We also had received our annual gift of \$20,000 from Publix Super Markets Charities by this time last year.

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We received our updated FTE annual total after the October FTE count recalculations and FTE funding will increase by \$112,000. FTE funding is calculated based on the average of the October and February student counts. We expect to be full for the February student count.

Development Report

Our Top Chef event is SOLD OUT! Thank you to everyone who helped bring in sponsorships. More money will be raised through the chef's text to vote and through an auction during the event. This event has great potential for continued growth. We will need almost 40 volunteers the night of the event.

John Weber and Mike Brossart are hosting a Super Bowl themed porch party on February 2, 2019. Karli will share a parent testimony and many new people will hear about Achievement Academy.

Principal's Report

Susan Shipe is back in the classroom after her long recovery with Gillian Barre. FTE count week is February 4-8. After that, Cindi will begin teacher evaluations.

Cindi and Jill Bartley, ESE Coordinator, are beginning to plan informational meetings for prospective parents. We have approximately 55 students who will be graduating from Achievement Academy and we will begin to fill those slots.

For the past several years, McKeel schools have organized the Charter School Teacher and Support Employee of the year event. This year they were unable to do so and no other schools could take it on either. We will continue to elect our Teacher and Support Employee of the Year and will find a way to recognize and celebrate them as we have in the past.

Executive Director's Report

Ring Roofing replaced a portion of the roof over Building A in Lakeland. Immediately afterwards, we had a heavy rain and discovered a couple of leaks. Ring came back out twice to check out the leaks and fixed it. So far, we have not seen any more leaks.

John presented the 2019-20 proposed budget for the Birth to Three program. We are again requesting additional funds to make a part-time Early Interventionist full-time. We also are proposing sending one Early Interventionist to training for the Parents As Teachers program that is growing across Florida and the United States. United Way has told agencies that you can't receive an increase unless you ask for it. Our allocation from United Way has remained the same for the past couple of years. If we don't receive the increase, we won't implement the above changes. Mike Brossart moved to approve the 2019-20 Birth to Three budget as presented. Michael Peebles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

We have received formal notice from the Polk County School District that bus transportation services for the 2019-20 school year will be ceased. This was a decision made by the transportation department and not the school board. We must have transportation services from the district as running our own fleet of buses will be nearly impossible for us. Coordinating with other charter schools is not an option either because we need wheelchair lifts, harnesses, car seats and booster seats. Charter schools pay for the transportation services that we receive. The school district keeps our state funds for transportation and then bills for the cost difference. Cindi calculated that total (based on the FEFP worksheet and invoices we receive) to be over \$165,000 last year. Cindi has sent emails to both Rob Davis, Assistant Superintendent of

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Support Services, and Vaughn Belcher, Director of Transportation Operations, but has not received a reply yet. Cindi also surveyed parents who use the buses and all but two families require transportation for their child to attend school. We have approximately 65 students who ride the bus which is approximately 40% of our student population. If you personally know any school board members, inform them of our plight and that we do pay for services.

Committee Reports

The Audit Committee met and reviewed the Request for Proposal (RFP) that we will send out to different audit firms. The goal is to have a recommendation for a new audit firm brought to the March board meeting for approval. The committee recommends sending out the RFP to three audit firms that serve charter schools in Polk County besides our previous firm along with a few others that serve charter schools in central Florida. Luke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

John received a contract for land purchase from SHD Properties, LLC for a purchase price of \$800,000 with a \$10,000 nonrefundable deposit and two 90-day extensions for an additional \$10,000 each. Michael Peeples made a motion to empower the Executive Committee to respond and counteroffer. Karli Hughes seconded the motion. Discussion was had and the Executive Committee felt they could not meet before the contract's deadline of January 23, 2019. Michael Peeples withdrew his motion. Mike Brossart made a motion to authorize Michael Peeples to negotiate on our behalf with a counteroffer of \$845,000 with a \$30,000 nonrefundable deposit and only one (1) 90-day extension for an additional \$30,000. Michael Peeples seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Sulsona

Administrative Services Manager

Upcoming Dates

February 11, 2019 – Executive Committee meeting – Lakeland campus – 4:00pm

February 19, 2019 – Board Meeting – Lakeland campus – 6:00pm

February 25, 2019 – Top Chef – RP Funding Center – 6:00pm

March 2, 2019 – Rise & Shine for Kids – Publix Charities Park – 9:00am

March 25 – 29, 2019 – Spring Break – SCHOOL CLOSED