

**Minutes of Board Meeting  
November 19, 2019  
6 p.m.**

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Luke Markham, Steve Earley, John Weber, Adil Khan, Chandra Frederick, Melissa Devlin, Trish Buchanan, Elizabeth Kerns, Jason Welling, Janice Jones, Stephanie Colon and Michael Peeples. 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. Adil Khan moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2019 Board meeting. Stephanie Colon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**Principal's Report**

Cindi Parker-Pearson attended the Florida State Charter School Convention last month in Orlando. Safe Schools was a big topic. Many other school districts are not up to standard and the state is still deciding on consequences against superintendents who are not in compliance. Cindi also heard of current lawsuits against charter schools who are not providing the appropriate services to ESE student.

Cindi and Stacy attended the "No Small Matters" presentation put on by Early Learning Coalition and were able to speak to several school board members and to state representative Melody Bell regarding our school transportation issue. School Board members Lisa Miller, Sarah Fortney and Billy Townsend as well as Senior Manager of ESE PreK for Polk County Schools-Greg Kent and Lakeland's Mayor Bill Mutz have all been in recently for a tour and met with staff to discuss school transportation further. Mayor Mutz has agreed to write a letter on our behalf to Superintendent Jackie Byrd. Chandra Frederick also invited Superintendent Byrd in for a tour but she was unable to come on the dates provided. Cindi followed up with Rob Davis informing him that we were ineligible for the grant to obtain buses and coordinate with Citrus Connection. Staff will continue to pursue a meeting with Superintendent Byrd to ask for a continuation of school bus transportation from the district. Janice suggested speaking with former school board members or former transportation manager, Fred Murphy, for their input.

**Parent's Report**

The annual Fall Festival was held Friday, October 25, 2019. We had a good turnout. Families seemed to enjoy the trick or treating trail. Mary Holjes will email photos that were taken during the event to the families.

The Fall basket drawing (three winners) will be announced tomorrow so the winners can pick up their baskets before we close for Fall break.

## **MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**November 19, 2019**

### **PAGE #2**

November breakfast meetings will be held at each campus this week.

### **Financial Report**

Deborah Sulsona presented the financial report for the four months ending October 31, 2019. The net decrease was a deficit of \$110,985 compared to a net deficit of \$99,045 last fiscal year. October this year had three payrolls which occurred in November last year. Also, we received our IDEA funds in October of this year compared to November last year. We expect an increase to our FTE funding based on our FTE count in October but we won't know how much until our December or January FTE check.

### **Development Report**

Mark Miller (a former board member) and Janice Jones won separate awards for National Philanthropy Day. Congratulations Janice and Mark!

We have all 12 chef spots secured for Top Chef. We need help with sponsorships. Stacy passed around a list of individuals and organizations that have given in the past. Board members were asked to note if they have a relationship with them and would be willing to assist with a sponsorship ask.

We now have 48 individuals enrolled in our Partners in Hope monthly giving program. We will send out an email blast to promote this program again.

Our Thankful Brunch for donors was held November 7, 2019. We had approximately 40 people in attendance. Melissa Devlin, parent representative on the Board, gave her testimony as well as a former student who now attends Harrison School of the Arts.

Stacy shared grants that have been submitted to the Iron Horse Foundation, George Jenkins Foundation, GiveWell Community Foundation and Harper Family Foundation. She has also made a Major Gifts ask to the Hollis family.

We have some families in need who can be "sponsored" for the Holidays. Please get with Stacy if you or your organization would like to help a family.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Amy Decker, who handled our Simple IRA plan for Achievement Academy, is no longer with Morgan Stanley. Hamilton Hooks will now oversee the retirement plan at Morgan Stanley.

The classroom ramp project will be completed soon by Vogel Brothers and help from volunteers with two local Rotary Clubs.

John presented the need to have Cindi Parker-Pearson added as a signatory on our Line of Credit with Citizens Bank & Trust. Steve Earley moved to approve adding Cindi. Stephanie Colon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

We now have a second offer on our CR 540A property. The newest offer is from Bespoke Realty and is for \$850,000. We have not heard back from Hutton regarding our counteroffer approved at the November Executive Committee meeting. Ryan Sampson with Eshenbaugh Land Company, our real estate agent, reported that Hutton is in the process of drawing up a contract on the property and that he will forward it as soon as he receives it.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**November 19, 2019**

**PAGE #3**

**Committee Reports**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

Chandra presented an award to Steve Earley for his service to Achievement Academy for 35 years!  
Congratulations and thank you Steve.

Congratulations to Chandra Frederick for her promotion with the county!

Janice Jones announced that the Lakeland Chamber has changed their annual meeting format and will have nonprofit awards.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sulsona  
Administrative Services Manager