

Minutes of Board Meeting
April 18, 2023
6 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Mike Brossart, Sheilitha Williams, Adil Khan, Janice Jones, Trish Buchanan, Ana Kalman, Joe Furnari, Amanda Barnett and Steve Earley. Staff members present included Kristin Aiken, Mary Holjes, Deborah Sulsona and Cindi Parker-Pearson.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Brossart called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Trish Buchanan moved to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 Board meeting. Steve Earley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Strategic Plan Status

Kristin met with Derek Oxford with CPS Investment Advisors last week regarding Planned Giving. He has also offered to assist in individual meetings as there are several avenues for donors. Development met with MADE to discuss the marketing strategy developed during their Brand-a-thon. Many of the suggestions we are already doing or planning to implement.

Financial Report

Deborah Sulsona presented the financial report for the nine months ending March 31, 2023. We have \$2.14 million in cash and total assets of \$3.4 million. Total liabilities are \$151K. We ended the month with \$3.2 million in revenue and \$2.88 million in expenses leaving a net surplus of \$342K. Last year at this time the net surplus was \$261K.

Discussion was had regarding the excess funds in the operating account at Bank of Central Florida. Adil Khan made a motion to move the operating account to a sweep account at Bank of Central Florida with a minimum balance set at \$250K. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Janice Jones made a motion to create an Investment Committee as a subset of the Finance Committee to have future discussion of possible investments. Trish Buchanan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Parents Report

The yearbook is complete and will go on sale soon. Each campus will have one more parent group meeting then Mary will plan a combined off-site meeting. The parent group will sponsor a staff luncheon for the end of the year. We held the Rise & Shine event after a three-year hiatus at Common Ground on Saturday, April 15, 2023 and had a great turnout.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

APRIL 18, 2023

PAGE #2

Principal's Report

Teacher observations and evaluations are wrapping up and remaining staff have begun. We have 58 students graduating will hold one more monthly parent informational meetings. Graduation will be held in person and at each campus. It is done like an open house where parents drop in. We are now beginning to offer spots to those on our waiting list. Graduation dates are scheduled as:

Lakeland – Thursday, May 18 6-7:30pm

Bartow – Tuesday, May 23 6-7:00pm

Winter Haven – Thursday, May 25 6-7:00pm

We have put the Assistant Principal position ad on our website. Cindi has discussed the open Assistant Principal position with a current teacher who has her masters in ESE and has also been rated a “Highly Effective” teacher for several years. She is looking into what it would take to obtain her Education Leadership certificate.

President's Report

Kristin and Ashlee Cofer have met with all of the chefs who participated in Top Chef to thank them and get their feedback. All of the chefs love the location. Seven chefs have already confirmed for next year's event! We will change the fundraising commitment traditionally required of the chefs. If any board members have feedback they want to provide, please email Kristin.

The Birth to Three program is preparing for the United Way CIT visit which is scheduled for 1-2pm on May 1. It will be held at the Mulaney Auditorium rear conference room at Lakeland Regional Hospital in order to fit the team of 11 plus staff, board members and two families telling their story.

Administration has begun meeting with insurance brokers to start the process of looking for a different health insurance plan.

Committee Reports

The Development Committee met today. We have not had any new candidates for the Development Director position. Ashlee Cofer, Development Coordinator, is taking a grant writing class. We are also applying for the YIELD Giving grant opportunity by MacKenzie Scott who has pledged \$250 million to 250 charities.

The Nominating Committee met last week and will bring forward the slate of nominees to the May board meeting. Two current board members have expressed an interest in moving to the Advisory Council.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Janice Jones moved to adjourn the meeting was at 6:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sulsona

Chief Financial Officer