

Minutes of Board Meeting May 21, 2024 6 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Adil Khan, Karli Wilkinson, Trish Buchanan, Heath Frederick, Steve Earley, Haley Ross, Mike Brossart, Zelda Abram, Jill Haladay, Sheilitha Williams and Nick Sellars. Staff members present included Kristin Aiken, Deborah Sulsona and Cindi Parker-Pearson.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Brossart called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Sheilitha Williams moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024 Board meeting. Adil Khan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Strategic Plan Status

Kristin is working narrowing down dates for the board retreat. Once The Executive Committee picks a date then Kristin will send it out to the full board.

Financial Report

Zelda Abram presented the financial report for the ten months ending April 30, 2024. We had total cash of \$2,544,613 and total assets of \$3,908,691. Total liabilities were \$111K. On the income statement we had total income of \$3,899,391 which is \$278K more than budgeted. Total expenses were \$3,345,286 which is \$39K over budget. Deborah Sulsona has updated the year-end projection. After taking out the capital purchases that won't show up on an income statement, we are looking at a net surplus of \$274,082.

Parents Report

The yearbooks were distributed to all students last week. Thank you Ana Kalman for your sponsorship!

All parent meetings are done for this school year. Mary is tallying the parent volunteer hours and will recognize the parent with the most hours as the Volunteer of the Year.

Mary is finalizing the details of a summer field trip. Bok Tower was given as a suggestion and it would be held in early June. Parents would be responsible for their own transportation.

Principal's Report

Lakeland's and Bartow's graduations were last week and Winter Haven's is tomorrow. We had 45 total graduates and have had good turnouts so far.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

MAY 21, 2024

PAGE #2

Cindi announced the Teacher and Support Employee of the Year which are voted on by their colleagues. Jamie Hagan (Lakeland) was named our Teacher of the Year and Katie Sparkman, OT (Lakeland & Bartow) was named Support Employee of the Year.

Teachers and Therapists are finishing up end-of-year testing, closing files and getting ready for the summer. The last day for students is next Thursday and Friday is a Teacher Work Day. We have one teacher that is retiring. She has been with us for six years and an educator for 30+ years. Cindi will have that position and a few Para positions to fill over the summer. Teachers return for next school year on August 2 and students on August 12.

President's Report

The United Way CIT visit went well. We had good board representation. We will find out our allocation amount on July 1. Unfortunately, the following week after the United Way visit, our newest Early Interventionist (EI) turned in her resignation. She feels in-home visits are not for her. Becky Jacklin who was looking at retiring this summer has taken retirement off the table until she feels confident handing off her caseload. Kristin is sharing the EI job description with Success by 6 and local colleges in a search for candidates.

Development has sent out the appeal letter and the bi-annual newsletter will go out in June. The newsletter will include a Top Chef recap as well as a teaser for Top Golf. Kristin and Development staff are working on a more systematic donor cultivation plan. Kristin plans to spend much of the summer researching and applying for grants while also doing more outreach. Engage Bartow toured our Lakeland campus recently and Kristin recorded a podcast for the Winter Haven Chamber.

Other projects that will occur this summer are

1. A service project beautifying the Winter Haven campus by Haven Worship Center.
2. Installing removable bollards in Winter Haven as recommend by the Office of Safe Schools. The lowest quote is \$9,750.
3. Installing a sunshade to cover the Building C playground in Lakeland. We have \$15,000 from the Publix capital grant we received earlier this fiscal year. Kristin is also researching the Association of Dermatology grant opportunity as well as KFC.

Committee Reports

The Finance Committee met to review the draft 2024-25 budget. The committee decided to hold off on the full-time Assistant Principal position for another year and allow the current teacher pursuing that role to take on more responsibility for an increased stipend. An additional Early Interventionist is included under Birth to Three and a second Development staff person was also added. Current staff were provided with salary increases. We also increased the overall fundraising goal to finalize the budget with a small surplus. Deborah Sulsona noted that we won't have the Publix Charities capital grant or the ESSER funds next year. Adil Khan moved to approve the proposed 24-25 combined budget as presented. Zelda Abram seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Nominating Committee has recommended two new board members, Joseph Little and Carly Reifenrath. Adil Khan moved to approve the two board candidates. Steve Earley seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. They will be installed at the August meeting if they accept the board position.

The Nominating Committee also set forth a new slate of officers beginning with the 2024-25 fiscal year as follows:

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

MAY 21, 2024

PAGE #3

Chair – Trish Buchanan
1st Vice Chair – Adil Khan
2nd Vice Chair – Sheilitha Williams
Treasurer – Paige Campbell
Secretary – Karli Wilkinson
Immediate Past Chair – Mike Brossart

Zelda Abram moved to approve the slate of officers as listed. Jill Haladay seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

The 2024-25 Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting dates are included in the packet. The March meeting was pushed back as the third Tuesday in March is over spring break. Deborah Sulsona will send out calendar invites.

The Board of Directors does not meet in the months of June and July. Heath Frederick moved to grant the Executive Committee voting power to act on behalf of the full Board until the Board meets again August. Steve Earley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Steve Earley moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sulsona
Chief Financial Officer