

**Minutes of Board Meeting  
October 15, 2024  
6 p.m.**

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Adil Khan, Trish Buchanan, Paige Campbell, Sheilitha Williams, Ana Kalman, Joe Little, Janice Jones, Steve Earley, Haley Ross, Nick Sellars and Karli Wilkinson. Staff members present included Kristin Aiken, Deborah Sulsona, Cindi Parker-Pearson, and Mary Holjes.

**Approval of Minutes**

Trish Buchanan called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Adil Khan moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 Board meeting. Karli Wilkinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**Financial Report**

Paige Campbell presented the financial report for the three months ending September 30, 2024. Cash and investments is \$2.2 million. Total assets are \$3.52 million with net assets of \$3.48 million. Total revenue was \$819K and total expenses was \$1,077K resulting in a net deficit of \$161K. We typically carry a net deficit for the first few months of the fiscal year. We received our first capital outlay payment of \$10K today which is not reflected on the financials. Fundraising is just ramping up so we are not concerned at this time. We also have ample reserves in the meantime.

**Parents Report**

School pictures for Lakeland had to be rescheduled due to being closed from Hurricane Milton. Everything is coming together for our annual Fall Festival which will be held October 25. Our first Fish City Grill spirit night was October 1<sup>st</sup> and we received a check for \$1,214. We are scheduled for a second spirit night in March. These spirit nights help pay for the Fall Festival as well as a staff holiday luncheon.

**Principal's Report**

Hurricane Milton occurred during the FTE survey week. We were only open one day of the week however we were fully enrolled and in attendance on that first day. We will see what the state decides to do about when to count. **\*\*UPDATE\*\*** The state of Florida offered an alternative week for school districts to decide which week to use for the FTE count. Unfortunately, Polk County Schools chose the alternative week which was more advantageous for them but not for Achievement Academy. We were only able to count 155 students.

The Bartow and Winter Haven campuses had a lot of debris. In Lakeland, Building A's roof lifted up. Wet ceiling tiles and insulation were removed and the roof was fixed that weekend. Board member Brant Masters has connected us with a supplier for the ceiling tiles. A classroom in Building B flooded. The water was

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**OCTOBER 15, 2024**

**PAGE #2**

extracted the next day and dehumidifiers were put in for several days. This part of the building needs to be evaluated for drainage issues. Staff returned to work today and finished cleaning up the playgrounds. Communicating with staff was challenging right after the storm due cell tower and power issues. Staff returned today and students will return tomorrow.

**President's Report**

Top Golf didn't make our budgeted goal but we came pretty close. Mix Networks was our largest sponsor for the event. Staff will look at ways to fine tune the event and make it better.

Now the focus will shift to Top Chef. The Top Chef Committee first meeting has been postponed twice but will hopefully meet soon. Sponsorship letters went out and staff will follow up with those companies soon. Chefs and Community Leaders have been slow to commit. If any board members have any suggestions for community leaders, please let Kristin know.

Kelly Lane is our newly hired Development Director. She will start next week.

The company, 1-800-Striper has offered to re-stripe our Winter Haven parking lot for free. We may ask for them to consider the Bartow parking lot as well since they are both so small.

Kristin met with a grant writer who has been very successful at obtaining large dollar grants. She has offered her services at 50% her normal rate for a 12-month contract. She will come tour the Lakeland campus next week. Adil made a motion to authorize Kristin to engage a contract with the grant writer for 12 months. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

The Audit Committee reviewed the 2023-24 financial audit with Moss, Krusick & Associates. The auditors had a clean audit with no findings or recommendations. They said we had strong internal controls and a strong financial position for a nonprofit.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

None.

Janice Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Deborah Sulsona*

Chief Financial Officer