

Minutes of Board Meeting
April 15, 2025
6 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Trish Buchanan, Adil Khan, Nick Sellars, Sheilitha Williams, Brant Masters, Ana Kalman, Steve Earley, Zelda Abram, Karli Wilkinson, Paige Campbell and Joseph Little. Staff members present included Kristin Aiken, Cindi Parker-Pearson, Deborah Sulsona, and Kelly Lane.

Approval of Minutes

Trish Buchanan called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m. Adil Khan moved to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2025 Board meeting. Steve Earley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Financial Report

Paige Campbell presented the financial report for the nine months ending March 31, 2025. Cash and investments total \$2.38 million. Total assets are \$3.7 million with net assets of \$3.69 million. Total revenue was \$3.29million and total expenses were also \$3.20 million resulting in a net surplus of \$82K.

Deborah Sulsona updated the year-end projection. It was learned yesterday that the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) is not a separate line item to be paid on the FEFP worksheet but instead rolled into the Base Student Allocation. Deborah had to reduce the projection of the state FTE funds by approximately \$100K as we expected the TSIA payment to be. We are looking at a possible deficit for the year-end. We do not receive FTE funds in the month of June.

Parents Report

Mary Holjes was not in attendance so Cindi gave her report. We received a check of \$1,200 from Fish City Grill for the spirit night. We held a parent workshop called Behavior Strategies for Parents that was very well attended and very well received. Mary may look at other workshops this presenter may offer.

The parents group sponsors a staff appreciation luncheon each year. This year Mary is having the luncheons catered by Tantrums Flightside Café who won our Top Chef competition!

Development Report

Now that Top Chef is over, Development staff are researching venues and analyzing costs. We have \$200K in outstanding grant requests for operations as well as \$700K for equipment and physical items. We should have decisions on those soon.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

APRIL 15, 2025

PAGE #2

The commemorative brick campaign is happening now. We are also offering smaller bricks to be installed at the Winter Haven and Bartow campuses as an option.

We will have a ticket drawing for concert tickets donated by MIDFLORIDA credit union. The proceeds will go towards our Top Chef event totals.

Principal's Report

Cindi is wrapping up teacher observations and evaluations. All other staff evaluations have started.

We will offer teachers 2025-26 contracts soon and anticipate that all will return.

We have identified 51 graduates and have set graduation dates.

Lakeland – Tuesday, May 13 from 6-7:30pm

Winter Haven – Thursday, May 15 from 6-7pm

Bartow – Wednesday, May 21 from 6-7pm

We've had classroom placement meetings and have tentative rosters for returning students at all three campuses. The ESE Facilitators are now filling the open spots with the appropriate next child on the waiting list. All graduates must have a transition meeting at the receiving schools so schedules and coverage is tight.

The last day of school is May 29th.

President's Report

One Birth to Three Early Interventionist has made known her resignation plans for the end of the fiscal year.

We will hold off on replacing her until after we receive our United Way allocation notification. We have a goal to have the application submitted by May 20th, ahead of the June deadline.

The Birth to Three team is helping set up a monthly playgroup for a support group for parents with children that have a rare genetic disorder. Parent support is a big part of the charter school and are pleased to offer this in the Birth to Three program as well.

The Development team is working on their summer plans of donor cultivation and connection. Ashlee Cofer and Development Director, Kelly Lane attended the LIFT summit and learned more about stewarding plans. We are moving forward with the 3rd annual Top Golf fundraiser. We have two possible dates in mind.

Kristin is watching two legislative bills that will affect us if passed. One will allow parents of nonverbal students to request video cameras to be installed in the classrooms. This would be an unfunded mandate and we would incur the cost of cameras, storage, pixelating other students, etc. The other bill would extend the age requirement under Early Steps for services through age four.

We were able to give a presentation to the Leadership Lakeland class on their Health & Human Services Day. Some class members have requested tours of our campus.

Committee Reports

The By-Laws committee reviewed our By-laws and more specifically the board terms. As of the 2012 revision, a cap was placed at three consecutive terms. With an initial term of one year, this would limit a new board member's time of service to seven years which is less than the cap of nine years. Nick Sellars gave two options of language that the board reviewed. Adil moved to accept the language option that states

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

APRIL 15, 2025

PAGE #3

Term: Directors shall serve an initial term of one (1) year and can be nominated to serve up to three (3) additional successive terms of three (3) years each if approved by the Board of Directors. Directors can serve a maximum of ten (10) successive years on the Board of Directors. The term limits set forth herein shall not apply to any Directors who served on the Board of Directors prior to August 2012. Effective May 2022, time spent serving the Corporation as an Officer will not count towards the maximum term limit as set forth herein.

Karli seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Top Chef committee is evaluating the guest experience to ensure an anticipated event next year. They are surveying top sponsors, the chefs and community leaders. The committee will meet again in May.

The Finance committee met today to review a draft version of the 2025-26 budget. With rising, but necessary, personnel costs, current funding sources are unable to keep up. The committee will bring a proposed budget to the full board in May for approval.

The Nominating committee met to review board candidates. Two are self-nominated and one or two are being reached out to for their expertise. The committee will bring nominations as well as term renewals to the May board meeting.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Steve Earley moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sulsona

Chief Financial Officer