

Minutes of Board Meeting
January 21, 2025
6 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Lakeland Achievement Academy. Board members in attendance were Trish Buchanan, Adil Khan, Ana Kalman, Karli Wilkinson, Heath Frederick, Joe Little, Nick Sellars, Carly Reifenrath, Zelda Abram, Brant Masters and Jill Haladay. Staff members present included Kristin Aiken, Deborah Sulsona, Cindi Parker-Pearson, and Kelly Lane.

Approval of Minutes

Trish Buchanan called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Heath Frederick moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024 Board meeting. Karli Wilkinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Financial Report

Deborah Sulsona presented the financial report for the six months ending December 31, 2024. Cash and investments total \$2.15 million. Total assets are \$3.5 million with net assets of \$3.48 million. Total revenue was \$2.07 million and total expenses were \$2.21 million resulting in a net deficit of \$144K. We are under budget for revenue. Mostly in fundraising but we are working on that! Our appeal to keep our FTE survey window as the original week (not changed because of the hurricane as Polk County did) was approved and we are able to count all the students. Our monthly FTE payment has not increased yet but we should see an approximate \$70K increase overall. Please note that the October FTE count and February FTE count are averaged for the final amount. We are over budget in expenses which is mostly due to the first payroll in January (1/2/25) hit the bank early on 12/31/24 which affects the comparisons.

Parents Report

Mary is working on the yearbook. She is looking for a sponsor for the yearbook like we had last year that allowed us to give all families one copy.

The next Fish City Grill First Tuesday fundraiser is March 4. We receive 15% of the entire day's sales.

Principal's Report

Cindi has been able to hire a teacher who will start this week. She has 16 years of experience at the district. Cindi will stay in the classroom with her for the first week. After that, Cindi will begin teacher observations and evaluations from February through April.

The next FTE survey week is February 3-7. The final student vacancy has been filled and that child starts tomorrow. As long as no one withdraws and all students attend, we'll have a full count again.

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President's Report

We were informed by the Polk County School District that we had not followed the appeal process regarding the FTE week change. We were unaware that there was an appeal process but it has been duly noted.

The Birth to Three team observed this month's Down Syndrome support group that meets at Bonnet Springs. We will offer early intervention coaching and support at their monthly meeting starting February 4 for a maximum of 12 children. We will receive a reimbursement rate for services of \$100 per session. These sessions also allow us to share information about the Birth to Three and Charter School programs.

Top Chef is five weeks away. We are \$50K ahead in sponsorships over last year. Community leaders are up and running to raise money. Many are planning events and Kristin will keep the board informed of those dates.

The United Way Board of Directors approved the shift in the allocation timeline. Applications will now be due in June with a funding period of January – December. This allows the CIT teams to have a more concrete figure for the allocable dollar pool. Visits will be in the fall. The teams will give agencies a primary and an alternate date in case of a hurricane shutdown. United Way will provide a bridge gift from July through December 2025 of the same amount agencies are currently receiving.

The hired grant writer Marcia Wynn has several grant requests out totaling about \$93K. Kristin is tracking the grant requests and responses to assess the return on investment.

The Executive Committee approved the facilities committee recommendation for a new a/c unit in Building A.

Achievement Academy was not part of the Leadership Lakeland Education Day site visit schedule this year. Kristin has reached out for any follow up information to understand the change. Development Director, Kelly Lane, will reach out to see if we would be a good fit for the Health & Human Services day.

Committee Reports

None

Unfinished Business

Trish Buchanan shared thank you notes from staff regarding the holiday bonus.

New Business

None

Brant Masters moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25pm. Adil Khan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sulsona

Chief Financial Officer