



Board of Directors Meeting

Time: January 27, 2022 @ 4:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join on Zoom: Meeting ID: 857 3321 4713

Passcode: 067950

Roll Call by Secretary: Eric Bentson (present), Ashley Goverman (present,) Rob Harrahill (present, after roll call), Alison Hynd (absent), George Hynd (present), Patty Kay (present), Stephanie Sams (present), Wayne Wright (absent) , Trey Zimmerman (present)

Admin Present: Ashley Brooks and Summer Brown

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide an exceptional, evidence-based, multi-sensory education for students with dyslexia to open the gates to their academic potential in an environment that empowers students to develop a positive and socially conscious self-image.

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 4:33pm
2. Adoption of Agenda for January 27, 2022 meeting: Eric Benton 1st; Ashley Goverman 2nd; all in favor unanimously
3. Approval of minutes from November 29, 2021 & December 2, 2021 meetings - 1st motion: Patty Kay; and 2nd: Rob Harrahill; All in favor unanimously
4. Public Comments (2 minutes per speaker; please state your name and address)*

Lauren Jordan: Hoping to understand the timeline regarding frozen enrollment and open enrollment for 2022-23. Gave an appreciative comment regarding our amazing teachers and admin. Stephanie stated that the details on those topics are on the agenda and will be addressed.

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5. Executive Director's Report

- a. Currently at home with Covid and recovering.
- b. Prior to the break only 4 positive students and 3 positive staff, but the numbers have spiked since returning from winter break and we have had 15 students and 2 staff positive cases. In addition, 50 in quarantine due to close contact. Currently in yellow level with the established virtual policy to give families a system to monitor cases if the need arises to go virtual school-wide. At 24% in quarantine today.
- c. Gates is monitoring the new quarantine policy issued by CDC/DHEC guidelines, but for now will stay with the 10 day quarantine period due to staffing needs and operational capacity. Gates continues to stay in close contact with local DHEC regarding school policy.

6. Principal's Report

- a. Dr. Brown shared pictures of students dressing up as their 100 year old selves as they celebrated the 100th day of school today.
- b. Board Member Appreciation Month: The students wrote letters of appreciation to the Board. Dr. Brown will give the letters to Mrs. Sams to share with the rest of the Board.
- c. The second MAP testing for the year has been completed. Finishing FastBridge for 1st graders. Completing iSpire assessments for new FROG placements. Dr. Brown will start a new round of assessments. Her role has shifted and is in the classrooms for OG/FROG times to fill SPED requirements.
- d. The Read to Succeed law is being discussed to make sure a plan is in place, as well as a meeting with 3rd grade families about the law.
- e. MTSS meetings are coming now that 2nd quarter report cards have come out to make sure we are supporting our students as best as possible.
- f. Winter MAP scores: The majority of students progressed and grew in their scores. Data shows that we know dyslexic students do not always perform well on these tests, but it is very exciting to see the growth.

7. Board Chair Report

- a. Addressed Ms. Jordan from the public comments section and agreed how amazing our teachers and staff are especially amongst being a brand new school in the midst of Covid.
- b. Letters from students for Board Appreciation Month were shared. Ms. Sams thanked every board member and their hard work.
- c. Ms. Kay commented on how amazing Gates is and even though her grandchild has had to quarantine and go virtual, he is still thriving thanks to the teachers and staff.
- d. Business: The school received Dept of Education feedback with a new Corrective Action Plan from Erskine. The school is waiting on more guidance from Erskine per the CAP that's scheduled to be shared with Gates in the next week or two. The school will be working on the plan to become compliant according to their recommendations and guidelines.



8. Financial Report (Information)

- a. Gates is expecting government funding of \$450,000 allocated from the Planning & Implementation (P&I) grant and ESSER III, however it is issued via reimbursements throughout the calendar year. Ashley Brooks and Eric Bentson are working with McKay Kiddy to renew our line of credit with SC Community Fund to cover the gap for necessary expenditures in order to then submit for reimbursement. Kiddy is seeing much longer reimbursement time coming from the federal government.
- b. Good news from Erskine that ESSER III should be out within the next 3 weeks or so.
- c. Rob is disappointed that the full financial report was not available to view. Rob hopes that going forward the reports are provided.
- d. Rob also stated with new board members coming on, he would suggest having Melissa on a call to explain finances.
- e. Eric explained that McKay Kiddy does provide the monthly financials and he goes over the highlights and pertinent information at each board meeting.
- f. Ashley B. stated the financial reports are submitted to Erskine monthly as required.

9. Marketing (Information)

- a. The Post & Courier published a great piece on dyslexia schools in South Carolina. Unfortunately, they didn't reach out to Gates for an interview, but the school was mentioned as one of 3 public charter schools in SC that serves students with a primary diagnosis of dyslexia. Stephanie Sams emailed the writer and introduced herself as well as thanked them for bringing light to dyslexia and invited her to keep in contact.

10. Fundraising (Information)

- a. With new Board members coming on, the Fundraising Committee will hopefully start implementing ideas.
- b. Hoping with the dedicated parents at Gates, we can form a solidified group of people that make things happen.
- c. Goals include: Community building, relationship building and expanding the school.
- d. Rob stated if we had been fundraising correctly, we wouldn't need to take out loans.
- e. See above regarding the need to renew the line of credit due to the P&I Grant being a reimbursable grant.

11. 2022-23 Open Enrollment (Information)

- a. Open Enrollment opened on 1/5/22 and will run through 2/25/22. Adjustments have been made to the enrollment process that requires documentation to be uploaded at the time of application. The lottery will be during the 1st week of March and administered by the Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina.
- b. So far we have received 35 new applicants including students currently residing in NY, NH, and CA that would move to the Lowcountry to attend Gates.
- c. A continuing goal for Gates is to get enrollment info out to underserved populations. The Dream Center and YMCA have both been contacted, as well as SocioEd evaluators.



- d. The Department of Education has issued guidance through Erskine with a new Corrective Action Plan. Gates expects to fulfill the CAP and is eager to move forward.
- e. Rob asked about enrolling new students to fill spots this year and Ashley Brooks stated that we are still unable to enroll students for the current year due to the continuing enrollment freeze by Erskine.
- f. Patty mentioned reaching out to local SPED teachers, school psychologists, and principals about Gates to help spread the word.
- g. Dr. Brown mentioned that often within the traditional school system, reading deficits often aren't being caught until mid-2nd grade.
- h. Stephanie Sams will reach out to more people at MUSC pediatrics to spread the word about dyslexia.

12. Board Elections (Information)

- a. The Board election is managed by the Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina.
- b. Gates Board elections are open and candidate applications are being accepted through Monday.
- c. Eric Bentson is the Chair of the Nominations committee, along with a school rep, Rachel Jones, and community rep, Carol Aust from the Alliance.
- d. Eric stated the application period was extended through Saturday, 1/29 at 5pm due to the ice storm. Application has been open and candidates are encouraged to apply.
- e. Once the application deadline is closed, Carol Aust is receiving the applications and will discuss with the Committee.
- f. Election will be held 2/15-2/17.
- g. The new board will start at the February board meeting.
- h. Stephanie thanked the Board for all of their hard work to create Gates School.

13. Adjourn at 5:34pm. Motion by Rob Harrahill; George Hynd 2nd.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Goverman

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