



Board of Directors Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 865 9420 9757

Passcode: 685797

Confirm attendance of Board & Admin:

Board Attendees: Eric Bentson, Ashley Goverman, Rob Harrahill, Alison Hynd, George Hynd, Stephanie Sams, Trey Zimmerman

Administration Attendees: Summer Brown

Patty Kay

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 9:33am by Stephanie Sams
2. Adoption of Minutes from October 23, 2021 Meeting; motioned by Robert Harrahill; second by Eric Bentson
3. Adoption of Agenda for November 20, 2021 Meeting; motioned by Robert Harrahill; second by Alison Hynd
4. Introduction of Patty Kay as a possible new board member with a K-12 certification.
5. Executive Director Report:
 - a. Ashley Brooks is out of town.
6. Principal Report:

5010 Wetland Crossing Rd.
North Charleston, SC 29418
info@gatesschool.org
www.gatesschool.org



- a. Issued our first issued 1st report cards for the 9 weeks. With every report card, the IEP progress reports go out at the same time. Required over 400 comments from SPED coordinator.
- b. Complete CoGAT testing for 2nd graders.
- c. The first picture day was a success.
- d. Coming back from Thanksgiving, within 3 weeks: MAP assessment testing, iSpire placement, FastBridge (1st grade).
- e. There is a curriculum that a parent has suggested Gates research and pilot, ILS, Interactive learning systems.

7. Board Chair Report:

- a. Board representatives and Dr. Brown went to Gaffney on Wednesday to meet with Limestone.
- b. Recognized Dr. Brown and her dedication for pulling over twice for IEP meetings while driving to Gaffney.
- c. Met with the Board at Limestone University Charter Association Board to present our official transfer request. Limestone unanimously approved our transfer. Dr. Parker told us he would love the University to partner with Gates, as they have an alternative education program as well.
- d. Had a conversation with Representative Mark Smith about the school.
- e. Had a conversation with Wes Olsen and he will be coming down for the Charter Alliance conference. He hopes to come to the school next week to tour.

8. Financial Report:

- a. Both Ashley B. and Melissa Kitty have been out so more particulars will be put together next week. On January 1, 2022, \$31,000 per month will start as an expenditure. Gates has the P&I Grant. Planning phase included, Implementation phase is reimbursable. ESSER 3 Grant funding for \$203,000. It's not money sent to the school, the school has to make the payments upfront, then submit for reimbursement. Melissa agrees it's hard for young schools to pay for things up front. She recommends taking out a bridge loan between \$75k-\$100k to cover those upfront costs. Optis Bank is ready to move forward and understands the dilemma. Number of conversations with Joseph with SC Community Fund. They can't



extend the \$100k loan but they are eager and able to open a loan once the first is closed. Eric will follow up with SCCF and ask for brief bios of staff members of the school. They recommended Eric speak with South State Bank since we have an existing relationship and equity in the building. Stephanie will provide original contact at the Belle Hall branch.

9. Need to fill open board member position

- a. Patty Kay is the grandmother of Jacob Brown in the 5th grade and is the potential board member with K-12 certification. Patty taught for 28 years and is retired. She also previously served on the Board for Orange Grove Elementary.
- b. Action Item: Trey makes a motion to invite Patty Kay to our board; George Hynd 2nd. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

10. Mascot:

- a. Alison contacted a graphic design teacher at Wando.
- b. Action Item: Alison Hynd motioned to finalize mascot; Ashley Goverman second with the claw feet.
- c. Middle font for Griffins is clearest and best for dyslexia. Open to changes in color as long as it stays on brand.
- d. Unanimously vote for mascot and font.
- e. The students will vote for our Griffin's name.

11. Fundraising Update:

- a. Alison - Talked to Paypal again and we set up a link that can be put on the website as well as FB page. Made another QR code that has a little more differentiation that has a place for dollar amounts. There are programs they can specify (playground.) You can pay with Paypal or credit/debit.
- b. Paypal needs to be linked to our bank. Alison will get the bank info to get it set up.
- c. Will make sure Rachel knows once changes are made.
- d. A mother of a student has been in contact regarding starting a PTO/PTA.
- e. Next fundraising committee meeting date TBD. Ideas include: Fun run, pizza spirit nights, golf tournament in springtime.



- f. Dr. Brown will add information about Giving Tuesday and Amazon Smile to the upcoming newsletter.

12. Open Enrollment:

- a. Pushed enrollment to January 2022 since we have a year under our belt to be more in line with school choice and other open enrollment timelines.
- b. Will be filling 1st grade, 2nd class of 2nd graders, and any other open spots in 3rd-6th. We have students waiting to enroll for this current school year once enrollment freeze is lifted. Number of spots available for additional grades TBD
- c. Tours may not be possible right away with the additional IEP meetings being scheduled to address the CAP.
- d. Ideally a meeting will be held soon with Erskine and the Department of Education to move forward from the enrollment freeze.
- e. Patty Kay mentioned assigning a specific person for tours if administration is not available due to IEP meetings
- f. Tentative Open Enrollment January 5, 2022 - February 25, 2022. Could potentially do a lottery week of 3/7. Charter Alliance will run the lottery. Rob advocates to go through 2/25 to align with CCSD, since we have a goal to capture more of the community. Rob will update website to include all of the info/docs needed to have everyone prepared before open enrollment. Ashley Goverman motion; Rob Harrahill 2nd. No more discussion. Unanimously accepted.
- g. Working towards making enrollment more simplified. Parents will upload their documentation right as they apply. Rob looked into the program and a variety of others, but Jotform software is minimal cost or possibly free with the number of applicants we expect.

13. Board Elections:

- a. First election will take place in February. Their positions will be “active” at following meeting. Post general election schedule 30 days prior to election. Will put it on the website, social media, and newsletter. Will be conducted by the Public Charter School Alliance.
- b. 2022 meeting schedule. Required to hold 6 meetings per year. We have held many more 2021 meetings. Trey motions to hold meetings during weeknights between Tues - Thurs. George seconds. Motion unanimously passed. Will still start off the year on Zoom, but will continue to watch covid numbers, but eventually go to in-person meetings. Stephanie will make the 2022 schedule, 3rd Thursday at 4:30pm, unless otherwise noted.



- c. Up to 50% of members will be appointed. Remaining will be elected by parents and staff. All parents get a vote for each student enrolled. People that work for the school and also have children that attend will get 2 votes (1 per student, 1 per staff)
- d. Half of the appointed people will serve a 1 year term. Half of the appointed people have a 2 year term.
- e. Have space for 9 board members (4 appointed, 5 elected)
- f. Nominating committee will be created (Eric Bentson-chair & board member, staff member & community member).
- g. Requirements for board member: Over the age of 18, resident of SC, high school diploma, positions would be contingent would be passing a criminal background check.
- h. Rob suggested discussing the “gaps” as well as “current strengths” for board members. Goals for next 2 years.
- i. Board members will reach out to Stephanie by Saturday 11/27 so decisions can be made to move forward with appointed Board Members.

9. Public Comments (2 minutes per speaker; please state your name and address)

- a. No public comments

13. Adjourned at 12:04pm with no objections.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Goverman