



Board of Directors Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 865 9420 9757

Passcode: 685797

Confirm attendance of Board & Admin:

Roll Call by Secretary: Eric Bentson (present), Ashley Goverman (present,) Rosemary Herold (present,) George Hynd (present after roll call,) Bob McFerran (present,) Stephanie Sams (present), Stephanie Tecklenberg (present, left early towards end of executive session,) Sedric Webber (present,) Trey Zimmerman (present)

Administration Present: Ashley Brooks

Dr. Summer Brown (sick, unable to attend)

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 at 4:33pm by Stephanie Sams
2. Adoption of Agenda for March 24, 2022 Meeting; motioned by Bob McFerran; second by Eric Bentson
3. Adoption of Minutes from February 25, 2022 Meeting; motioned by Sedric Webber; second by Bob McFerran
4. Public Comments (2 minutes per speaker; please state your name and address)*
 - a. Courtney Cookler - Read to Succeed concern. Per Erskine's presentation it appears that 95% of the 3rd grade could be retained and that they would get to make that decision. When parents were contacted by Gates, we were told that the Summer camp could be necessary, but what other steps beyond summer camp is required if the onus is on the parents and ends up being up to Erskine? Finally deadlines for

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exemption documentation and considerations are made outside just the spring test scores. Real concerns for many 3rd grade parents regarding retention.

5. Executive Director's Report

- a. Spinner replacement has finally reached the U.S. from Denmark and will be installed over spring break week.
- b. Amanda Hodges stepped up and offered to create a yearbook to commemorate Gates' first year.
- c. Stephanie Tecklenberg has worked tirelessly on the Gates Family Association (GFA), including sign ups for chairs, committees, fundraising, special events. Form went out this week and deadline is April 1st.
- d. No covid cases since February 1st.
- e. Beginning next week, co-mingling of FROG groups to make them smaller and more targeted will occur since we feel comfortable with covid levels.
- f. Strayer will be out of the building by end of April and will be reaching out to Trey Zimmerman to have a "close out" meeting.
- g. Grievance Policy (Action) - Motion to bring up policy for a vote by Bob McFerran; 2nd motion George Hynd
 - i. Eric Bentson mentions how to clarify the 10 day deadline for the grievance policy. After the 1st sentence on step 2, state email preferred, or postmarked, within 10 days.
 - ii. George Hynd Page 3 - Title IX complaints - does it refer to the entire policy or just a certain section of it? Eric Bentson pulled up a section and infers it is to ensure there can be an end to the grievance process.
 - iii. Move forward with vote on the Grievance Policy with the above change to step 2.
 - iv. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.
- h. Based on vote for March 31st on Founders Day. An ice cream truck will be coming and students can pick out a sweet treat. Thank you to Stephanie Tecklenberg for helping set up the ice cream truck.

6. Principal's Report

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- a. Dr. Brown is sick and shared report with Ms. Sams to give
- b. Working hard on direct and indirect minutes, as well as CAP
- c. 3rd 9 weeks report card went out yesterday
- d. Director of Curriculum goes for state testing training next week, including Read to Succeed
- e. Ms. Sams mentioned that Dr. Brown and Ms. Flake have been working tirelessly, hours upon hours. Very appreciative for all of the hard work.
- f. Next deadline is tomorrow for CAP. Erskine-assigned Consultants will be there twice next week.

7. Board Chair's Report

- a. Want to go back over the timeline overlapping a bit from our last meeting.
- b. Gates receives a new CAP on January 19th and is told special education consultants will be assigned and next steps will be given by Feb. 4th.
- c. February 3rd, Gates is told not to do any work on the CAP until the Erskine appointed SPED consultants are assigned (which is by Feb 4).
- d. Consultant names are provided to Gates on Feb. 21 which is 17 days after they were promised and no work could begin on the CAP until the consultants were assigned. The 21st was also a holiday and the school was closed.
- e. The consultants meet with the school for the first time on Feb 24, which is the day the first CAP items were due. After working all day and not completing one of the submissions, the consultants reached out to Erskine to ask for an extension (Gates was told they could do this).
- f. Erskine does not respond to this extension request for 5 days and denies the request.
- g. On March 3, Erskine informs Gates that they have missed a CAP related deadline and are not compliant with the CAP. This is 10 days after the Erskine appointed SPED consultants are assigned. Gates sends a response on March 5th refuting all claims.



- h. On March 14th, Gates is notified by an Erskine staffer that an “issuance of charter revocation” has been placed on the CIE Board Meeting agenda for March 16, 2022.
- i. On March 16th, the Institute board voted to revoke Gates’ charter on June 30, 2022

8. Treasurer’s Report

- a. The Planning and Implementation (P&I) Phase 2 grant was approved by the government. This is good news as there was no clear way to know when it would arrive.
 - i. This reimburses expenses for almost anything in the building. Such as Supplies, contractors, special education expenses, etc. and is retroactive from January 1st. Our accounting firm submits the claim and P&I pays the claim.
- b. This government funding is in addition to the “Fringe Benefits Contribution” which started paying monthly. This totals \$150,000 for the year.
- c. Lastly, we are tracking potential changes in SC government in regard to the calculations and ratios used to determine school funding from the govt of South Carolina. There will be more to come on this as it is finalized, and we work with our accounting team.
- d. At next month’s meeting I will have the Quarter 3 financial summary which concludes the end of March.

8. Executive Session (moved into executive session at 5:05pm with no objections.)

- a. Pending Contractual Matter – Charter Institute at Erskine
- b. Executive session ended at 7:00pm
- c. No votes taken during executive session.

9. Possible Action Items from Executive Session

- a. George Hynd motions for Gates Board of Directors to file an appeal as soon as possible, but within the 2 week deadline, regarding the Institute’s Board vote to revoke Gates School’s charter; 2nd Bob McFerran. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously with roll call vote.



- b. Eric Bentson motions to retain the law firm, Turner & Caddell.; 2nd by Trey Zimmerman. No discussion. Unanimously passed with roll call vote.
- 10. We are looking at dates to schedule a parent forum before Spring Break. It Will be shared via email and the Griffin Gazette.
- 11. Adjourn at 7:05pm.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Goverman

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