



Board of Directors Meeting

Time: July 28, 2022 @ 4:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join on Zoom: Meeting ID: 849 2307 5285

Passcode: 796100

Roll Call by Secretary: Eric Bentson (present), Ashley Goverman (present,) Rosemary Herold (not present) George Hynd (present,) Bob McFerran (present,) Stephanie Sams (not present), Sedric Webber (present,) Trey Zimmerman (present)

Admin: Jean Castelli, Linda-Jean, Ashley Brooks

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.

1. Call to Order by Eric Bentson at 4:34pm
2. Mission Statement & Roll Call by Ashley Goverman
3. Adoption of Agenda for July 28, 2022 meeting; Motion by Sedric Webber; 2nd George Hynd
4. Adoption of Minutes for June 30, 2022 and July 21, 2022 meetings; Motion by Bob McFerran; 2nd George Hynd
5. Public Comments: No public comments
6. Executive Director's Report:
 - a. Facility: Alarm installed at the school. ADT came in and wired up the doors and windows. Ongoing HVAC issues. HVAC co. has parts on order. 2 units are currently not working and monitoring and will hopefully have them up and running sooner than later. It is looking pretty shabby and need landscaping. Back to school clean up is scheduled for August 6th 9am-12pm. Several people have signed up already on the sign up genius. Various needs with outdoor and indoor.

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- b. Enrollment: Specific list of documentation was provided to CIE and submitted by mid July and CIE has unfrozen enrollment. CIE has their external auditor that should be completed by end of next week. Still getting applications daily. Various referrals from psychologists, OG tutors, word of mouth...
- c. GFA: Jean and Ashley B. had a meeting with GFA leaders. Things to focus on: Gates University, families will be required to volunteer for 10 hours, it will help giving our teachers that break weekly; GFA wants to utilize the library space better; Lisa Bentson sent out a survey to teachers; Request was more decodable books. It's over 10K for 5 sets of decodable books to go with iSpire. Picnic tables.
- d. Trey makes a motion to invite GFA leaders to give a report each board meeting; 2nd by George. All in favor.
- e. August 4th, AB, Stephanie, and Jean meet with CR, V, and Mr. Adamson per Erskine's invitation.
- f. Teachers & staff report to back to building on 8/9.
- g. Meet the Teacher on Monday, 8/15.
- h. 1st day of school: Wednesday, 8/17.
- i. George asked if there was an agenda for the Erskine meeting to make sure Gates is prepared. Ashley Brooks responded: No specific agenda and the email invitation was friendly and warm.

7. Principal's Report

- a. Last week Jean went to Columbia to meet with the Erskine team. Meeting with the Data & accountability team to start the day. Found it really informative and helpful. The team was very welcoming and will help set our course for the school year. Went to lunch with Mr. V, Superintendent Runyan, Laura Merrick, and Mike Sinclair. She stated they "couldn't have been more welcoming and gave flowers and took pictures." Very positive.
- b. Introduction of Dr. Linda Jean Schwartz. Dr. Schwartz has tremendous experience as SPED administrator. Originally from Long Island. Also board certified behaviorist and speech pathologist. Director of Student Services is new title.
 - i. Intro from Dr. Schwartz. Very excited about the program to have this opportunity with Gates. Look forward to shaping learning for the kids and coach the teachers. Will strongly support the students, teachers, and families especially in special education.
 - ii. Has already spent 4 full days to deep dive in IEPs and 504s to ensure year is off to the right start.
 - iii. Had a nice conversation with Sarah Love from CIE about Enrich software.
- c. Professional development: 8/9-11. Carrie Leo with DaVinci research will be talking about structured literacy and OG practices laying the fundamentals down for the staff and team including strategies and implementation. Current and new teaching staff will participate. Jean has experience with her in the past in NY. The staff should be walking away with real lesson plans and knowledge. OG level educator training will also occur. These training sessions have been helpful in recruiting new teachers.

8. Treasurer's Report

- a. Spent an hour on the phone last week during the specially called board meeting diving into the 2022-23 budget.
- b. Budget was approved with 135 students. Room to grow to 150 students.
- c. A couple grants that are upcoming. P&I grant arrived for \$88k. ESSER III \$203k is set to arrive Aug/Sept.
- d. We are thankful for our continued relationship with the South Carolina Loan Fun.

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- e. Budget was sent to CIE on Friday. Eric asks Ashley B if the budget has been approved by CIE. Budget is in “pending” status in “Let’s Work Smart.” No questions have been asked by CIE at this point.
- f. Processing for 7/30 payment deadlines should be coming out very soon for the short-term loans to cover the June expense.
- g. During the second week of July met with the financial auditor that was approved by the Gates Board in May. Our annual audit has begun. McKay Kiddy is the main contact. Should be submitted in October.

9. Fundraising Update

- a. Community Partner Program in the works with 4 partners (business & families.) Eric commented that the upcoming year should allow for a more comfortable fundraising opportunity without the threat of closure. The Partner Program will be highlighted at Meet the Teacher. The deadline to sign up for the year and receive the benefits will be mid-September.
- b. George and Rosie will be speaking offline for grant opportunities.

10. Adjourn; Motion by Trey; George 2nd. All in favor.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Goverman.