



### **Board of Directors Special Meeting**

Time: March 29, 2023 @ 4:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Location: Join on Zoom: Meeting ID: 811 1237 9617 Passcode: 097489

**Roll Call by Secretary:** Jason Brisini (present,), Ashley Goverman (present,) Rosemary Herold (not present,) George Hynd (present,) Bob McFerran (present,) Chris Ott (present,) Stephanie Sams (present), Sedric Webber (not present)  
Jane Walsh (present)

Other attendees: Bill Roach, Jean, LJ, Virginia Lliston, iPhone, Christina Lagace

#### **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 at 4:32pm.
2. Mission Statement & Roll Call by Ashley Goverman
3. Adoption of Agenda for 3.29.23 motioned by Stephanie. 2nd Bob McFerran. All in favor.
4. Adoption of Minutes for 3.13.23 motioned by Stephanie; 2nd by Jane; All in favor.
4. Public Comments (2 minutes per speaker; please state your name and address)

Virginia Liston: thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My heart is heavy... A group of parents of children with dyslexia saw a need in education and this school was started out of love... for children that have fallen into the gray area. I don't want to explain to my child that he may need to change schools again ... I know that the children's best interests are what's in our hearts. I call in your hearts to look at what's best for our kids

6. Principal's Report / SPED Update
  - a. Spring is here and with the change of seasons comes a change of energy.

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- b. All students need working headphones. If they aren't, please replace them. Especially important as we come towards assessments.
- c. Spring assessments are approaching. April 19-29 MAP. May 8 will be SC Ready during that week.
- d. Parents will be hearing about it and encourage their students to get good night sleeps and healthy breakfasts.
- e. Working along with GFA to schedule a Spring cleanup afternoon. General outdoors maintenance will be planned: grass, weed wacking, mulch for the playground, etc
- f. SPED update: IEP teams are busy. SPED teams are providing minutes.

#### 7. Board Chair's Report

- a. March 15: CIE had a meeting and the board voted to push the revocation vote to April. They will make a final decision from the appeal from May 18, 2022 to terminate the Gates charter. We do have instructions to submit information relevant for the CIE Board to consider by 4/7 and then we are still awaiting the April meeting date. Both sides with each side have 15 minutes to share additional information that we want to share.
- b. Need to reiterate that the Board is open to anything and will do whatever it takes to keep the school open.

#### 8. Treasurer's Report

- a. Available cash in the bank is \$177K as of end of February.
- b. This week we worked closely with our team at Veris (our CPA) regarding the school's updated revenue projections based on 135th day student count. Unfortunately, our weighted pupil unit (WPU) dropped based on the 135 day count. Due to this drop, our current revenue of \$121K will drop to \$90K\* per month beginning in May.
- c. Overall, the school continues to run very lean regarding expenses mainly due three factors:
  - i. 1. Our district's (Charter Institute at Erskine) continuing enrollment freeze.
  - ii. 2. Special education expenditures that well surpassed what was budgeted for.
  - iii. 3. Our drop in WPU (enrollment).
- d. It is important to note that Gates School has been under an enrollment freeze for a year and a half. Funding is directly tied to our enrollment numbers and after 17 months this freeze is definitely affecting our ability to fully accomplish our mission.
- e. Lastly, I want to thank all the Gates teachers, administration, and board members. Starting a school is a huge challenge in itself and there have been challenges above and beyond what was anticipated. Thank you for all the time, energy, and commitment to all our students!

#### 9. Action Items

- a. Title IX Policy; Ashley Goverman motions to approve the policy. Jane Walsh 2nd. No discussion. All in favor.
- b. Unencumbered Time Policy; Bob McFerran 1st, Chris Ott 2nd; No discussion. Will change and update the name to Gates School. All in favor. Motion passed.

9. Executive Session; Motion to go into exec session at 4:51pm. Jane Walsh; 2nd; Bob McFerran.



- Receipt of legal advice related to proposed contract pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
- Discussion of negotiations related to proposed contract pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
- Receipt of legal advice dealing with matters covered by attorney-client privilege, including pending or potential legal claims pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

Motion to leave exec session at 6:31pm; Bob 2nd; All in favor.

Out of executive session at 6:32pm. No votes taken.

#### 10. Possible Action Item(s) Related to Executive Session

- a. Motion on the table by Ashley Goverman. Based on the best information we received yesterday, with the changes regarding the Charter Institute at Erskine's Weighted Per Unit (WPU), Gates' total revenue will decrease from \$121,000/month to \$90,000\* per month beginning in May. I move for the Board to create a Committee to determine the school's fiscal viability for the future. 2nd by George Hynd. No discussion. All in favor. Unanimously passed.
- b. Motion on the table by Stephanie are willing to work out any agreement with Erskine to continue the school . 2nd Bob McFerran. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Motion to adjourn at 6:35pm by SS. 2nd by Chris Ott. All in favor.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Goverman.