



## Donna J. Beasley Mission Statement

To support students in achieving a high school diploma and prepare them for college and career success through an individually paced, technology-based, flexibly scheduled program.

### Minutes

#### **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 4:00 PM at school:**

1. Board Chairman, Mr. Stichter, opened the meeting at 4:00 PM with roll call: Mark Stichter, Walter McDonald, Robert Hurst, Mrs. Padron (board member/parent liaison), and Pastor Jhon Freddy Correa. All present. Also in attendance were Dr. Torregrasso, Ms. Peters, Mrs. Renna, and Mr. Renna.
2. Welcome visitors. None
3. Review of Public Notice- A notice was posted on the school's website.
4. Public Comments: Anyone wishing to address the board is given 3 (three minutes). If it is an issue that the board needs to discuss, it will be placed on the next agenda to give the board time to ascertain all the facts before the consultation. None
5. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting on June 7, 2023. The board voted 5-0 to approve.
6. Reports:
  - a. Student enrollment: Dr. Torregrasso reported that we had 255 as of the October FTE count. He suggested we give bonuses to the staff members who worked hard to make this happen. Total bonus: \$1,200 to be divided between those members. The board voted 5-0 to approve this expense. Dr. Torregrasso also reported that our average attendance in the past was about 35% of our students. We currently have between 50 to 60% attendance.
  - b. Staffing update: We added the following new staff members: math- Mr. Hagan (using the choir room for classes), English- Ms. Concepcion (in the main hall), Science- Ms. Fry (used to help Ms. Crew, who is doing testing), and Mr. Aristizabal (part-time office secretary). Dr. Torregrasso explained the need for additional staff. He said that the ESOL and ESE student population have increased drastically. We have a large number of students who do not speak English at all. Our English teacher, Ms. Dyen-Shapiro, works directly with these students (in the file room, behind the office). Ms. Dyen-Shapiro is bilingual. There was a suggestion that since Ms. Hudson has been working at the school since November 2017 and has done an incredible job, she should be given a \$500.00 bonus. The board voted 5-0 to approve.

- c. Mental Health Services: The board voted 5-0 to approve our mental health plan. Ms. Peters explained the mental health plan. She also expressed the concern that many of our students were in need of mental health services. Under the current plan, there is \$12,952 to pay for a mental health specialist, Dr. Woulas, to come to the school and meet with our students. The leadership team felt that there was a greater need for Dr. Woulas to work with our students. It was decided to double the time Dr. Woulas would come and work with our students.
- d. Approval of SIP: The board voted 5-0 to approve the School Improvement Plan. Dr. Torregrasso explained that we will focus on ELA, Math, and behavior this year. We have added the following programs: Reading 180 and Chalk Talk to help our students. We are currently looking at a quote for a math program we will purchase shortly. The school has also adopted a program called RCD, Responsibility Centered Discipline, which is our school-wide discipline approach that every teacher is expected to follow. RCD focuses on shifting the responsibility of the teacher's behavior and allowing students to take ownership of their behavior. As part of this program and our mental health program, we have a motivational speaker coming to the school.
- e. Extra security guard: Mr. Renna explained that there was serious concern about the number of students in the same room. It was decided to hire an additional (private company) security guard to help with student control. Dr. Torregrasso reported that we have averaged 2-4 incidents with students for the past five years. So far this year, we have had twelve! We recently had a fight, and one of our teachers, Ms. Higgs, was injured. She has a mild concussion and will stay home until she feels better. The board voted 5-0 to add the additional guard to our revised budget.

## 7. Site report: Mr. Renna

- a. Purchase: There was a discussion about the need to vote to approve signing the sale contract with the church. It seems that we have been working on this for over a year, and it is believed that the board approved the chairman to sign the purchase contract. However, just in case, the board voted 5-0 to approve the purchase.
  - 1. Approval of sale contract: The board received a signed copy of the purchase contract for their files. The school has 90 days to come up with the funds. There is an additional 30-day clause in case we get held up.
  - 2. Building Hope: Mr. Renna provided the board with information about Building Hope. They are a not-for-profit company that helps charter schools buy and build their schools. They will take our loan to their loan committee in November for financing in December.

3. County timeline: Mr. Renna explained the timeline based on consultation with our engineering team, general contractor, and other stakeholders. We are trying to get everything done by August of 2024. We were told that it would be hard to meet that deadline unless we could muster up some local support from the community (political leaders and community advocates). Pastor Correa said that there was someone that he would reach out to. Mr. McDonald also has a contract that we will talk to. Mr. Hurst has a neighbor who has some influence in the community and might be able to help. Mr. Stichter also mentioned that he had someone whom he would talk to.

b. Financials:

- a. Review and approve financials for September 2023. It was tabled to the next board meeting.
- b. Audit for the 2022-23 school year: Board approves 4-0 (Mr. McDonald had to leave early).
- c. Review and approve the revised five-year budget. Tabled. Board members will review the budget and communicate with Mr. Renna with questions and concerns.

8. New/Old items:

a. Fundraising

- a. Ms. Padron reported that she went to pick up the Pizza Fundraiser materials, but many items were missing. She spoke with the person in charge, and they are sending the missing materials. There were some concerns about the safety of the funds that the students would be collecting. Mr. Renna and Ms. Padron will have a conference call with Papa John's Fundraising director to get some ideas on handling this. The discount cards cost \$15.00 each. The school gets \$10 back for each card we sell. Ms. Padon will work with staff to set up motivational prizes to help sell the tickets. The school will pay for the first 100 tickets for \$1,500.00. One thousand of which we will get back as our portion. Mr. Renna committed to purchasing 20 tickets to be given to teachers so that they can give out prizes to students.
- b. Mr. Renna and Dr. Torregrasso talked about a large fundraising event to invite some influential community members. Mr. Hurst said he could get the Gateway Country Club to host the event. Mr. Renna and Dr. Torregrasso will share more information as it is developed.

- c. Concerns about the number of emails, texts, and phone calls. Mr. Renna expressed concern about sending too many emails to the board. It was decided that he would indicate in the subject line if the item was a priority or not.
- d. Replace our current attorney. Mr. Renna explained his concerns about double billing recently by our attorney. He said that he emailed him with his concern but didn't get a reply that was satisfactory to his liking. Mr. Renna has been collecting information about other charter school attorneys for review. It was decided that Mr. Renna would call and try to meet directly with our attorney, as he has been our attorney for ten years.

9. Board Member Matters: update on

- a. Fingerprinting--- Walter, Pastor Correa: All board members have been fingerprinted.
- b. Training: All board members have been trained. This is a reminder of the law and when each member must take a refresher course.

Florida charter school board members must complete a two-hour refresher course every three years. Florida charter school board members must complete four hours of governance training within 90 days of being appointed to the board. Participants must have their school's bylaws available to complete Section 1.

Pastor: 8/18/23 must complete refresher by 8/18/26

Ms. Padron: 4/21/23 must complete a refresher by 4/21/26.

Mr. Hurst: 6/8/23 refresher by 6/8/26

Mr. Stichter: 9/7/22 refresher by 9/7/25

Mr. McDonald: 9/20/22 refresher by 9/20/25

- c. Reminder Sunshine Laws- board members cannot communicate through phone calls, text messages, emails, or in person with each other regarding all matters regarding the school.

10. Set the next board meeting: Thursday, February 15, 2024 at the school 4:00 PM

11. Adjournment: 5:45 PM