



Board of Trustees Meeting

April 28th, 2016

301 West Hunting Park Avenue - Library

Philadelphia PA 19140

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Board Members Present: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha; Treasurer, Carmen Torres; Secretary, Danilo Diaz, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Santiago Negron

Board Absent: Rev. Luis Cortes; Ex-Officio, Rev. John Rice; Vice-Chairperson, Denise Cruz, Brandon Fuller

Staff/Management Present: Artemio Rodriguez, David Rossi, Angela Smith, Rebecca DiSalvo, Nathaniel Stringfield, Yohana Giraldo, Lori Walinsky, Alicia Mojica, David Solivan, Benjamin Brous, Ellen Espailat

Other: James Ault

The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm. Quorum was established at 5:35pm.

I. Greetings

Rev. Zepernick welcomed and introduced Mr. Ault. He explained that he is currently filming a documentary for Esperanza Inc. Mr. Ault will be capturing footage of the board meeting.

II. Minutes*

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to approve minutes from the February 25th meeting. Mrs. Rocha motioned. Ms. Torres seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha; Treasurer, Carmen Torres; Secretary, Danilo Diaz, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Santiago Negron - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Rev. Zepernick tabled the April 18th board meeting minutes for June 16th for corrections.

III. Finance Committee Meeting

Mr. Rossi reported that due to the recalculation the Academy will suffer a loss of approximately \$300,000 in revenue for the current year. In future financial reporting the new allotment rates will be used. The finance committee reviewed the February financial statements, year-end projections and spoke about the 2016-2017 budget.



IV. Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Rodriguez reported the current ratio to be 0.72 as of March 31st. The current assets are \$2.1 million and the current liabilities \$3.0 million with \$1.4 million owed to related parties. The total net pension liabilities are \$18,643,000 due to GASB-8.

V. 2016-2017 Budget

Mr. Rossi presented a budget with a projected enrollment of 1435 students and using the per pupil allotment numbers assuming 2% less funding for regular education students and a 2% increase for special education students. A balanced budget will be brought up for a vote on June 16th. Mr. Rossi discussed possible threats to charter funding through legislation that would tier special education spending. If this legislature were to pass it would cut special education funds by approximately \$1,500,000 for Esperanza Academy

VI. Middle School Director of Instruction Report

Mrs. Giraldo reported that PSSA grade level assemblies were held where administrators stressed the expectations and importance of attaining a proficient score. Formal and informal observations are being conducted. Collaborative meetings are being held on a weekly basis. The middle school has instituted the Academic Achievement Program for students failing two or more classes to ensure they complete their course work by the end of the year. There were around 225 families present for the Parent-Teacher Conference April 7th. The middle school debate team and the chess team have participated in competitions and our students have been awarded various trophies.

VII. High School Director of Instruction Report

Mrs. Smith stated that Philadelphia School Partners (PSP) observed an all staff meeting. Their feedback was positive and were asked to join a round table discussion around data and literacy. The high school is currently looking for ways to strengthen and improve areas of the curriculum. Formal and informal observations are being conducted. The high school will implement the use of PSAT scores as a measurement tool for growth and improvement as a school. There were around 200 families present for the Parent-Teacher Conference. The poetry slam team is competing every Friday. The high school has formed a partnership with the Haverford School. Students from the Haverford School visited Esperanza Academy to discuss race and poverty. Esperanza Academy will be visiting their campus in May. Of the 2012 graduating class 75% of students have returned to college after their 1st year. The national average is 65%. The academy has one student who has passed the 1st round of interviews for the Gates Millennium Scholarship which fully covers undergraduate to doctorate schooling.

VIII. Annual Charter Evaluation



ESPERANZA ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL

Mr. Rossi stated that this is the School District of Philadelphia's 1st attempt to evaluate charters. The Academy will work on updating any paperwork needed to address any areas of non-compliance.

IX. Board Member Recommendation

The board reviewed the resume presented for Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to approve Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim as a new board member of the Esperanza Academy Charter School Board of Trustees. Mrs. Rocha motioned. Ms. Torres seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha; Treasurer, Carmen Torres; Secretary, Danilo Diaz, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Santiago Negron - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

X. Contract Approvals*

Mr. Rossi presented the grant approvals as follows:

1. **E-rate Contracts:** E-Rate is a federal program whose goal is to ensure that schools that serve high need communities can obtain telecommunications and Internet access at discounted rates. In order to participate in the program EACS must complete an application and be a part of the bidding process on a yearly basis.

a. Category I Projects

i. Verizon Wireless:

1. Cellular phones

a. Total Yearly Cost: \$33,033.60

b. Total amount covered by USAC:

\$16,516.80 discounted at 50% (only voice covered, data not eligible)

c. Out of Pocket for EACS:
\$34,238.16

ii. Comcast

1. Local and Long Distance

a. Total Yearly Cost: \$4,608

b. Total amount covered by USAC:
\$2,304 discounted at 50%

c. Out of Pocket for EACS: \$2,304

2. Internet

a. Total Yearly Cost: \$48,000



- b. Total amount covered by USAC:
\$43,200 discounted at 90%
- c. Out of Pocket for EACS: \$4,800

b. Category II Projects

i. MTG:

- 1. WAP Electronics and Cabling, Maintenance, AeroHive and CiscoBase
- 2. Total Cost of 2016-2017 SY Category II Erate projects: \$89,034.49
- 3. Total amount to be covered by USAC:
\$75,679.32 (85% discount)
- 4. Out of pocket amount for EACS: \$23,354.50

2. **Alison Koliba:** Independent Contractor as of 2/22/2016, \$130 Per Diem as needed. Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education and Special Education from West Chester University. PA Teacher Certified Early Childhood K-4 and Special Education K-8.

3. **Ramona Thrower:** Independent Contractor as of 3/07/2016, \$130 Per Diem as needed. Bachelors of Science in Psychology from Morgan State University.

4. **Educational Evaluators, Inc.:** EA has entered into a three year agreement with Educational Evaluators, Inc. to receive consulting services that will support 21st Century Cohort 8 programmatic evaluation activities. These services include bi-weekly tele-conference calls with teaching staff, oversight to the evaluation process, preparation of reports, focus groups, data analysis and reporting. The total cost of this contract is \$87,000. These funds will be paid over a span of 12 months in the amount of \$7,250 beginning March 31, 2016 through December 31, 2018. Total cost per year (for three years) \$29,000.

5. **EA Student DG:** EA has entered into a settlement agreement for student DG. The settlement includes attorney's fees at a cost of \$3,500 total and \$15,000 to a third party for educational expenses and services.

6. **EA Student JBV:** EA has entered into a settlement agreement for student JBV. The settlement includes attorney's fees at a cost of \$1,000.

7. **EA Student PV:** EA has entered into a settlement agreement for student PV. The settlement includes attorney's fees at a cost of \$3,000 total and \$9,000 to a third party for educational expenses and services.



Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Contract Approval #1 as presented. Mrs. Diaz motioned. Mrs. Santiago Negrón seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha; Treasurer, Carmen Torres; Secretary, Danilo Diaz, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Santiago Negrón - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Contract Approval #2, 3, 4 as presented. Rev. Martinez motioned. Mrs. Santiago Negrón seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha; Treasurer, Carmen Torres; Secretary, Danilo Diaz, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Santiago Negrón - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Contract Approval #5, 6, 7 as presented. Mrs. Rocha motioned. Rev. Martinez seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha; Treasurer, Carmen Torres; Secretary, Danilo Diaz, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Santiago Negrón - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

XI. Personnel Report*

Mr. Rossi presented the Personnel Report as follows:

New Hires:

1. Christopher Good: Social Studies Teacher, 2/29/16 (HS)
Temple University, B.S. in Secondary Social Studies Education
PA Certification: Level I Social Studies (7-12)
2. Judith Gonzalez: Administrative Assistant to the Director of Student Development
2/29/2016 (HS). M.B.A Eastern University.
3. John Neuman, English Teacher, 3/7/16 (HS)
Temple University, B.S. in Secondary English Education
PA Certification: Level 1 English (7-12)
4. Michael F. Kelly: Math Teacher, 3/11/16 (MS)
Drexel University, M.S. in Educational Administration



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PA Certification: Level I Social Studies (7-12)

5. Amy Rivera, PT ELL Paraprofessional, 3/14/2016 (HS). Nueva Esperanza Academy Charter High School, High School Diploma
6. Rosa Lopez-Soriano: On-Call Food Service Worker, 03/15/2016 (6-12). Lincoln Technical Institute, Medical Assistant.
7. Rolanyi Galan: PT Administrative Assistant for the 21st Century Afterschool Program, 03/28/2016 (MS) Enrolled in East Stroudsburg University; Communication Major
8. Scarlet Taveras: PT Maintenance Worker, 04/04/2016 (HS). High School Diploma.
9. Nyra Zaracho: PT On-Call Administrative Assistant to ESL, 4/4/2016 (6-12). Esperanza Academy High School, High School Diploma
10. I'esha Maxwell: PT Special Education Paraprofessional, 04/11/2016 (MS). Associate's Degree, Community College of Philadelphia.
11. Lashanda Green: PT School Climate Officer, 04/15/2016 (MS). High School diploma.
12. Rafael Santiago: PT School Climate Officer, 04/25/2016 (MS). High School diploma from Mastbaum Vocational/Technical High School.
13. Jose Rivera: PT School Climate Officer, 04/15/2016 (MS). High School diploma from Colegio Adventista del Norte.
14. Ramona Thrower: PT Special Education Paraprofessional (HS). Bachelors of Science in Psychology from Morgan State University.

Staff Departures – 10

On-Leave – 0

Vacancies – 4

Staff Transitions – 2

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Personnel Report as presented. Mrs. Santiago Negron motioned. Ms. Torres seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha; Treasurer, Carmen Torres; Secretary, Danilo Diaz, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Santiago Negron - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

XII. Board Meeting Calendar*

Rev. Zepernick tabled the approval of the board meeting Calendar for June 16th.

XIII. School Calendar*

Mr. Rossi presented the proposed school calendar for the 2016-2017 school year. Changes include open house instead of back to school night, 6th grade Culture Camp, no Veterans Day and 182 days of instruction.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the 2016-2017 School Calendar as presented. Rev. Martinez motioned. Ms. Torres seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha; Treasurer, Carmen Torres; Secretary, Danilo Diaz, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Santiago Negrón - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

IV. K-5 Documents

Mr. Rossi explained that the board should review the documents presented and they will be brought up for a vote on June 16th.

XV. CEO Report

Mr. Rossi presented the per pupil allotment numbers released in the recalculation. Esperanza Academy staff has completed the staff retention forms and to date only 1 staff member will not be returning for the 2016-2017 school year. Esperanza Academy will be receiving a monitoring visit for Title Funding as well as for IDEA funding. Mr. Rossi presented Mr. Jim Cawley as the Keynote Speaker in the graduation.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to approve the Keynote Speaker Jim Cawley for graduation. Mrs. Rocha motioned. Ms. Torres seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha; Treasurer, Carmen Torres; Secretary, Danilo Diaz, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Santiago Negrón - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

VI. Discipline Report

ESPERANZA ACADEMY

CHARTER SCHOOL

Mr. Stringfield stated that the Academy is taking measures to reduce common areas of misbehavior that may lead to out of school suspensions like chronic disruption, disrespect to staff and using sexually charged language. The staff is sending letters home asking parents to partner with the school in addressing these issues. The staff is targeting the at-risk male population by creating a Boys to Men project and mentoring this population through various workshops including sexual harassment awareness.

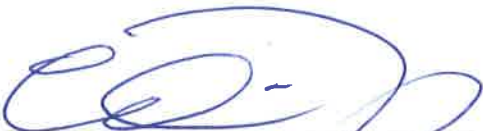
VII. Adjournment

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Mrs. Rocha motioned. Ms. Torres seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha; Treasurer, Carmen Torres; Secretary, Danilo Diaz, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Santiago Negron - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0



Board of Trustees Secretary

Minutes Taken by Ellen Espaillat

06/16/16

Date