

**ESPERANZA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**  
301 W. Hunting Park Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19140- Library  
Thursday, February 28, 2019  
5:30pm

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**Board Members Present:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Carmen Torres

**Board Member Absent:** Rev. Luis Cortes, Brandon Fuller, Denise Cruz, Mr. William Hopkins, Ms. Asdrey Irizarry

**Staff/Management Present:** David Rossi, Danny Cortes, Artemio Rodriguez, Jorge Calixto, Lori Walinsky, Kim Chung, Alicia Mojica, Tania Diaz, Rebecca DiSalvo, Nathaniel Stringfield, Earline Williams

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**Greeting**

Rev. Roger Zepernick called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

**Minutes**

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2018 Board meeting. Rev. Magaly Martinez motioned. Ms. Wanda Novales seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Carmen Torres- 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**Statement of Financial Interest**

The Statement of Financial Interests forms were distributed to all board members for completion. The forms are due for filing on May 1, 2019.

**Monthly Financial Report**

The Finance Committee met on February 26, 2019 and discussed the budget vs. actual for the December 2018 monthly report. Variances were reviewed. The school is still projecting a year end surplus. The 2019-20 school budget was discussed with a draft budget being presented at the April Board meeting. An update was provided concerning the redirection hearings.

**Mid-Year Report**

Mr. David Rossi informed that no instruction report will be provided today but the mid-year report is being presented in its place.

Ms. Lori Walinsky reported that health sciences, film and dance are the most popular majors. A total of 338 students are taking one or more honors courses representing 45.5% of the population.

The passing rate is presented at 81.8% at the high school and 95.3% at the middle school. This reflects a slight decrease in the high school and an increase in the middle school.

At the high school level, there was a slight increase in student failure when compared to last year, 4.1%. At the middle school the failure rate has decreased by 11.2%.

Mr. David Rossi reported on the increased elementary school reading level. A total of 44% of students are reading at or above grade level. Administration is discussing additional interventions for students who are not reading at targeted level.

The total special education population is 17% and the ELD population is at 25.3%.

### **College and Career Report**

Ms. Rebecca DiSalvo reported that as of February 1st 91% of seniors have applied to at least three colleges or universities. Of those who have applied, 16.5% of the applications have been accepted and 82.7% are still pending on approval or denial status.

About 8 students have received financial reward offers based on merit. Award values ranged from \$3,500-\$25,000 for year one and \$14,000-\$276,000 if renewed over a 4-year period.

Highlights from the College and Career Report are:

- Valedictorian has been accepted into the University of Pennsylvania
- 3 students have been accepted to the Comprehensive Studies Program at the Pennsylvania State University.
- 3 instant decision days leading to over 50 acceptances to 3 college and universities
- Senior seminar class offered for the first time leading to an increase in the number of applications and increase in the number of students who have completed FAFSA
- One student was accepted to Williamson College of the Trades with full-tuition/room and board scholarship

A discussion was had on what options students are getting when college is not a fit. Administration clarified that students are able to apply to college/universities or trade/vocational schools.

### **School Progress Report**

Mr. David Rossi reported on what the School District of Philadelphia measures all district and charter schools using the School Performance Report (SPR) metric. The middle school ranked 6th of the 33 middle schools in Philadelphia, 3rd of 13 charter middle schools and if compared to Special Admission middle schools, EA middle school ranked 4th of 7 meaning achieved higher score than some middle schools have admission requirements.

The High School in addition to being honored for 3 years of consecutive growth on the SPR metric ranked 18th of 83 high school in Philadelphia. Amongst charter schools' city wide EA ranked 6th out of 31. When compared to high schools with admission requirements EA ranked 12th out of 29, outperforming 16 district High Schools with admission requirements.

There are four domains that are measures and they are: performance on standardized assessment, including keystone exams (algebra I, Biology, Literature), Access for ELL, PSSA and reading assessments, student attendance, retention rate, suspension rate, parent survey, college and career matriculation rate, AP, IB & NOCTI exams participation, SAT & ACT exams, FAFSA, student survey.

The Board and administration discussed the role of parents at the school.

**Proposed 2019-2020 Board Meeting Schedule**

Mr. David Rossi presented the proposed 2019-2020 Board meeting schedule as follows:

August 1 or 2, 2019	Board of Trustees Retreat
October 15, 2019	Finance Committee Meeting
October 17, 2019	Disciplinary Review Hearing
October 24, 2019	Board of Trustees Meeting
November 14, 2019	Disciplinary Review Hearing
December 3, 2019	Finance Committee Meeting
December 5, 2019	Disciplinary Review Hearing
December 12, 2019	Board of Trustees Meeting
January 16, 2020	Disciplinary Review Hearing
January 23, 2020	Board of Trustees Meeting (If needed)
February 18, 2020	Finance Committee Meeting
February 20, 2020	Disciplinary Review Hearing
February 27, 2020	Board of Trustees Meeting
March 19, 2020	Disciplinary Review Hearing
March 26, 2020	Board of Trustees Meeting (If needed)
April 16, 2020	Disciplinary Review Hearing
April 14, 2020	Finance Committee Meeting
April 23, 2020	Board of Trustees Meeting
May 19, 2020	Disciplinary Review Hearing
May 21, 2020	Board of Trustees Meeting (If needed)
June 4, 2020	Disciplinary Review Hearing
June 9, 2020	Finance Committee Meeting
June 11, 2020	Board of Trustees Meeting

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve 2019-2020 board schedule. Ms. Carmen Torres motioned. Ms. Carmen Rocha seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Carmen Torres - 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

## Proposed 2019-2020 School Calendar

Mr. David Rossi presented the proposed 2019-2020 academic calendar as follows:

August 1 or 2	Board Retreat (9am-4pm)
August 15-16	New Staff Orientation
August 19-23	All Faculty and Staff Professional Development (1)
<b>August 26</b>	First Day of School for 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders
<b>August 27</b>	First Semester Begins for all Students
August 30	<b>No School</b>
September 2	<b>Labor Day – School Closed</b>
September 24	Middle School Back to School Night 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
September 25	High School Back to School Night 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
September 26	K-5 Back to School Night 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
September 27	Professional Development Day- <b>No Classes</b> (2)
October 4	Professional Development Day- <b>Early Dismissal for Students</b> (3)
October 24	Board of Trustees Meeting (5:30 PM)
November 5	Professional Development Day- <b>No Classes</b> (4)
November 11	<b>Veterans Day – School Closed</b>
November 28 & 29	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday- School Closed</b>
December 6	Professional Development Day- <b>Early Dismissal for Students</b> (5)
December 12	Board of Trustees Meeting (5:30 PM)
December 23 – January 3	<b>Winter Recess- School Closed</b>
January 6	School Resumes
January 20	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – School Closed</b>
January 23	Board of Trustees Meeting (5:30 PM) <i>(if needed)</i>
January 31	Professional Development Day- <b>No Classes</b> (6)
February 17	<b>President’s Day – School Closed</b>
February 27	Board of Trustees Meeting (5:30 PM)
March 13	Professional Development Day- <b>Early Dismissal for Students</b> (7)
March 26	Board of Trustees Meeting (5:30 PM) <i>(if needed)</i>
April 6-April 10	<b>Spring Break – School Closed</b>
April 13	School Resumes
April 23	Board of Trustees Meeting (5:30 PM)
May 25	<b>Memorial Day – School Closed</b>
May 21	Board of Trustees Meeting (5:30 PM) <i>(if needed)</i>
May 28	Graduation-Early Dismissal
June 8	Early Dismissal- Last Day of School
June 11	Board of Trustees Meeting (5:30 PM)

<b>Total Number of Days Scheduled Attendance: 180</b>			
<b>2019</b>	<b>Days of Attendance</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Days of Attendance</b>
July	0	January	18
August	4	February	19
September	19	March	22
October	23	April	17
November	17	May	20
December	15	June	6
Sub Total Days	78	Sub Total Days	102

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the 2019-2020 academic calendar. Ms. Carmen Rocha motioned. Mr. Danilo Diaz seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Carmen Torres- 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

## **Personnel Report**

Mr. David Rossi presented the personnel report as follows:

## **NEW HIRES**

### **Elementary School:**

1. Rosado, Luis: FT Special Education Paraprofessional, 1/22/2019  
Diploma in Automotive Technician, Lincoln Technical Institute

### **Middle School:**

1. Nichols, Robyn: FT Special Education Teacher, 1/3/2019  
Master of Arts in Teaching: Secondary/Special Education, Liberty University
2. Gonzalez, Ruth: 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Tutor, 1/7/2019
3. Burgos-Mendez, Ruth: PT ELD Paraprofessional, 1/7/2019  
Associate of Arts, Community College of Philadelphia
4. Vega, Ashley: 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Zumba/Fitness Club, 1/7/2019
5. Mejia, Milton: 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Tutor 1/22/2019  
Bachelor of Liberal Arts, Temple University
6. Ortiz-Flores, Janeyshka: 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Tutor 1/22/2019
7. Folly, Kanle: 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Tutor, 1/22/2019  
Bachelor of Science in Public Health, LaSalle University (2020)

### **High School**

1. Clark, Jeremiah: FT Social Studies Teacher, 1/3/2019  
Master of Education in Secondary Education, Saint Joseph's University  
PA Certification: Instructional I Citizenship 7-12
2. Gomez, Cassity: FT Special Education Teacher, 1/22/2019  
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, Sports, and Coaching, Eastern University  
Master of Special Education, Liberty University (2020)

### **Operations/Shared Services**

1. Mosley, Quareme: On Call School Climate Officer, 1/3/2019
2. Aviles, Lisandra: On Call Cafeteria Worker, 1/28/2019
3. Ramirez, Maritza: On Call Cafeteria Worker, 1/28/2019
4. Franco, Hector: On Call School Climate Officer, 1/31/2019
5. Maldonado, Nelson: On Call Maintenance Worker, 1/31/2019

## **SUBSTITUTES**

1. Cremeniuc, Victoria: MS  
Master of Science in Philology and Spanish Language, Moldova State University  
PA Certification: Instructional I Spanish PreK-12 (Pending)

2. Fitzgerald, Shane: MS  
Master of Education in Secondary Education, Saint Joseph's University  
PA Certification: Instructional I Biology 7-12
3. Mejia, Milton: 1/7/2019, MS  
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, Temple University

**STAFF DEPARTURES FOR THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR:**

1. Reyes, Leisamari: On Call School Climate Officer (Shared Service), 12/6/2018
2. Diaz-Pagan, Naomi: PT EL Paraprofessional (ES), 12/19/2018
3. Visentin, Stephen: Math Teacher (HS), 3/1/2019

**On-Leave:**

1. Neuman, Abigail: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, ES

**Vacancies:**

**HS:**

- FT Special Education Math Teacher
- FT Special Ed. Resource Room Teacher
- FT Social Studies Teacher

**MS:**

- FT Special Education ELA Teacher

**ES:** None

**Staff Transitions:**

1. Barreto, Stephanie: Previous Position On Call School Climate Officer, New Position: PT School Climate Officer, 12/16/2018
2. Averette, Sahron: Previous Position PT Special Education Paraprofessional, New Position: FT Resource Room Teacher, 1/7/2019

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the personnel report. Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron motioned. Mr. Angel Ortiz seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Carmen Torres- 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**Contract Approvals**

Mr. David Rossi presented the contract approvals as follows:

Contracts 1-6 are eRate contracts. All are effective July 1, 2019. All contracts are not valid without a letter of funding from eRate.

Contracts 1-6 are network electronic, cabling, and maintenance contracts for the installation of new hardware and ports.

Contracts 1-6 are considered “Category 2” and will be budgeted at 15% in the 2019-20 budget.

1. Micro Technology Group, Inc. (Category 2): Network Electronics- \$30,317.01 (HS)
2. Micro Technology Group, Inc. (Category 2): WAP Electronics and Cabling \$9,365.52 (HS)
3. Micro Technology Group, Inc. (Category 2): AeroHive AP Licensing \$22,639.90 (HS/MS/ES)
4. Micro Technology Group, Inc. (Category 2): Cisco Base \$7,247.67 (HS/MS/ES)
5. Micro Technology Group, Inc. (Category 2): Wire & Cable Maintenance Agreement \$5,950.00 (HS/MS/ES)
6. Micro Technology Group, Inc. (Category 2): Lan Maintenance Agreement \$21,750.00 (HS/MS/ES)
7. Consulting Agreement: the administration is recommending the approval of the contract between Lauren Iannuccilli and Esperanza Academy Charter School for providing assistance/support on the development of accountability targets and action plan steps. Hourly rate is \$120. Total hours approximately 118. Total not to exceed \$16,225.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the contracts. Wanda Novales motioned. Carmen Torres seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Carmen Torres- 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

### **Disciplinary Subcommittee Recommendations**

Proposed student expulsion-A.M.B. (Student ID#7246342) 12th Grade

Resolved, that student A.M.B. will be expelled for a period of thirty (30) days. Student A.M.B. violated the Zero Tolerance Policy by fighting.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to deny the resolution. Carmen Rocha motioned. Carmen Torres seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Carmen Torres- 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

### **CEO Report**

Mr. David Rossi has reported that a draft of the renewal report is expected in Spring 2019. Request for a guaranteed 800 elementary students is included in the renewal application. A close out report was received

in January and requests for edits have been submitted but response has yet to be received. A draft of the renewal audit report was received on February 27th.

A hearing was scheduled for January 10-11 but the School District of Philadelphia withdrew its objection to the redirection funds. We revised our request for an additional \$1,743,000 that was rejected in 2016-17.

Any Board member seated after June 30, 2018 are required to attend a training. One of the options is in Philadelphia at Excellent School PA. Any Board member can attend the training and online options are available.

On March 7th, teachers from 24 countries representing 6 continents will be at the Academy for a Teacher Exchange Program hosted by Temple University.

A letter was sent home regarding threats made against the school via social media. The police was contacted and an investigation is presently being conducted. Communication was made to parents via phone blast, email, website and a letter. A conversation was held regarding the use of Social Sentinel, a security alert system.

Act 44 is required for all public schools which provides guidance for schools in PA concerning various school security issues. Unfortunately, charter schools are not included in the competitive grant.

Gov. Wolf's State Budget is proposing a teacher minimum salary of \$45,000. This would not apply to charter school as they are exempt. This has not yet been passed but if passed every school district in Pennsylvania will receive funding to help bring up minimum salary or support the salary.

### **Discipline Report**

The high school had a total of 23 out of school suspensions and the middle school had 40 out of school suspensions.

### **Enrollment Report**

As of February 12, 2019, there was a total of 1577 enrolled. There were 40 students who withdrew as of the last Board meeting and 44 students were brought in.

### **Other**

Rev. Roger Zepernick has informed that he and Mr. Angel Ortiz met with the Executive Committee of Esperanza to discuss relationship and possibility of having a joint meeting. Also discussed during the meeting was understanding roles and responsibilities.

Mr. Brandon Fuller has submitted his letter of resignation. Unfortunately, due to the distance and his job he has had to resign. The Board has expressed its gratitude for serving the school for these years.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to accept Mr. Brandon Fuller's resignation. Mr. Angel Ortiz moved. Mr. Danilo Diaz seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Carmen Torres- 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0



**Next Meeting** – March 28, 2019 if needed (next scheduled meeting is April 25, 2019)

**Adjournment**

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Angel Ortiz moved. Ms. Carmen Rocha seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Carmen Torres- 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm

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**Board of Trustees Secretary**

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**Date**

Minutes Taken by Yesenia Garcia