

ESPERANZA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting
301 W. Hunting Park Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19140- Library
Thursday, October 25, 2018

Board Members Present: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Carmen Torres, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Ms. Asdrey Irizarry, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Mr. William Hopkins

Board Members Absent: Rev. Luis Cortes, Ms. Denise Cruz, Ms. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Mr. Brandon Fuller, Ms. Nancy Santiago-Negron

Staff/Management Present: Mr. David Rossi, Ms. Kim Chung, Ms. Tania Diaz, Mr. Nathaniel Stringfield, Ms. Lori Walinsky, Ms. Rebecca DiSalvo, Mr. David Solivan, Ms. Yesenia Garcia, Rev. Danny Cortes, Mr. Artemio Rodriguez, Ms. Earline Williams

Welcome

Rev. Roger Zepernick welcomed the new Board members, Mr. William Hopkins and Mr. Angel Ortiz and new CFO, Ms. Earline Williams. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm with 8 Board members present.

Approval of Minutes

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to approve the August 2, 2018 Board retreat minutes. Ms. Carmen Rocha moved. Ms. Carmen Torres seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Asdrey Irizarry - 7

Nays: 0

Abstentions: Mr. William Hopkins- 1

Financial Audit

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the financial audit. Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim moved. Mr. Angel Ortiz seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Asdrey Irizarry - 7

Nays: 0

Abstentions: Mr. William Hopkins- 1

Elementary School Instruction Report

Ms. Kim Chung reported that 30 students have signed up for Chess Club. The club began in September and meets twice a week. Teachers are continuing to provide effective English Language

Arts and Math strategies. Some of those strategies are: 100 book challenge, building number sense through the Singapore Math program, guided reading in small groups and FUNdations phonics program. Ways in which self-awareness in students and establishing norms in behavior expectation is being promoted are: through educating students on being kind which is one of Esperanza's virtues. The school counselor teacher 1 class every 2 weeks for each of the classrooms. Assemblies are held to remind students of behavior expectations and recognize students who exhibit Esperanza virtues.

Middle School Instruction Report

Ms. Tania Diaz informed that a diagnostic tool has been identified and was given to all current 6 graders in order to differentiate instruction and determine students who need reading intervention. The data has been uploaded and available on LinkIt, the new data warehouse.

Students continue to show progress in PVAAS ELA, Math and Science. Reading and math interventions are being offered during the school day by the grade level SAP case management and Mission Year interns. Students participating in 6th grade Math Club are now part of the National Math Club.

Students who were proficient or advanced on the PSSA's were recognized on PSSA recognition day, Friday, October 5th. Students wore "We Rocked the PSSA" t-shirts and were recognized on the PSSA proficiency bulletin board.

Jefferson University has partnered with Esperanza and four 8th grade students were accepted to the "Saturday Academy" program. The students would participate in basic science lectures that serve as supplementary education in anatomy, physiology, biology and other science courses.

High School Instruction Report

Mr. Jorge Calixto reported that the CDT testing will take place in Algebra IA, Perspectives, and Environmental Science classes. The diagnostic test will take place in November. The Social Studies department is creating a benchmark test that will focus on tracking student data in non-fiction text.

A celebration will be held in November for students who scored proficient or advanced on the Keystones. Student achievement was also recognized through the Pin Student celebration, the honor roll list assembly and the National Honor Society induction.

Rev. Roger Zepernick would like to congratulate the teachers who helped students achieve outstanding gains on the Keystone exams. The Board has requested the dates of the Pin student celebration and Keystone.

Renewal Update

Mr. David Rossi informed the Board that the renewal site visit was completed. The charter renewal application was submitted September 14, 2018. A site visit was conducted on October 16-17 in which 40 classes were observed throughout all three buildings. The purpose of the visit was to observe classrooms and review files.

Some feedback from the Charter Office during the debrief were: commendations for use of technology, Spanish language development, school wide virtues, common school expectations, safety, and overall school culture and atmosphere. Effective rigor was noted in AP and honors courses. It was observed that curricular majors have had a positive impact on student engagement at the HS level. Recommendations included the opportunity for higher order thinking and effective questioning. The opportunity for teachers to exhibit more consistent instructional norms was also noted. EA was found to be in full compliance concerning our Special Education, English Learner, enrollment, discipline files and programming. A few student files were missing physicals.

A finance and enrollment audit is scheduled for October 30-31. The auditors have received all requested items from our finance office in preparation for the visit. The Charter Office has stated that a draft of the renewal report would be available in December. Data from the last three Annual Charter Evaluations will be included in the renewal report. The renewal narrative did include a request for 800 students as part of the K-5 negotiation. A vote on the renewal is expected in the Spring of 2019.

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Artemio Rodriguez informed total assets of \$1,832,021 and total liabilities of \$3,452,347. Present ratio is 0.53.

Mr. David Rossi reported that cafeteria income is below budget. This is due to limited cafeteria income in June-August. School income is below budget by 11% due primarily to not being paid for elementary students and some 6-12 students. Funds should be received via redirection by the end of the month. The total revenue as of August 31, 2018 was \$3,442,508.

Management Agreement

Mr. David Rossi noted the management agreement fee change from 9% to 7.5%. The present agreement reflects the following changes:

Pg. 1: management agreement covers grade K-12.

Pg. 4: rate changed from 9 to 7.5%

Pg. 6: minor change in language

Pg.10-11: change in the scope is noted on both pages.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to approve the management agreement. Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim moved. Ms. Asdrey Irizarry seconded. The vote will follow:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Asdrey Irizarry - 7

Nays: 0

Abstentions: Mr. William Hopkins- 1

Contract Approvals

Mr. David Rossi presented the contracts as follows:

1. **NFTE:** the administration is recommending the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship and Esperanza Academy Charter School for the business curriculum, teacher training, professional development, and instruction support for the 2018-19 year. **Total cost: \$5,150.**
2. **The Common Market:** the administration is recommending the approval of the contract between the Common Market and Esperanza Academy Charter School for the purchasing of seasonal fruits and vegetables for our student meal program.
3. **Artistas y Musicos Latino Americanos (AMLA):** The administration is recommending the approval of the contract between AMLA and Esperanza Academy Charter School for providing MS music instructor who will teach lessons and create the opportunity of creating an ensemble. **Grand total: \$27,994** for the 2018-19 academic school year.
4. **Mission Year:** The administration is recommending the approval of the contract between Mission Year and Esperanza Academy Charter School for providing interns/staff. **Grand total: \$14,400** for the 2018-19 academic school year. The individuals from Mission Year will serve as Special Education Paraprofessionals in the MS
5. **Educational Evaluators, Inc.:** The administration is recommending the approval of the three-year agreement contract agreement between Educational Evaluators, Inc. with and Esperanza Academy Charter School to receive consulting services that will support 21st Century Cohort 8 programmatic evaluation activities. These services include bi-weekly teleconference 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.** The cost per year is \$29,000 and the funds are paid on a quarterly basis in the amount of \$7,250 beginning March 2019-December 2021. The evaluation of our 21st Century activities is a requirement of the grant and is paid for by grant funds.
6. **Timoteo Sports:** The administration is recommending the approval of the contract between Timoteo Sports and Esperanza Academy Charter School for the use of premises from 8am-1pm every Saturday beginning on October 6, 2018 through December 22, 2018. User shall pay the sum of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per hour. **Grand total: \$4,500**
7. **SquashSmart, Inc:** the administration is recommending the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the SquashSmarts, Inc. who would provide intensive, out-of-school mentoring and supporting to students who sign-up for the services. There is no cost associated with this MOU.
8. **The Salvation Army:** the administration is requesting approval of the contract between Esperanza Academy and The Salvation Army for the lease of the space at 3150 N. Mascher Street for the elementary school. Annual lease fee is \$256,057.92 payable in twelve (12) monthly installments in the amount of \$21,338.16 for the 2018-2019 school year.
9. **Philadelphia District Attorney's Office:** the administration is requesting the approval of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Philadelphia District Attorney's

Office School Attendance Support Unit and Esperanza Academy Charter School to implement the Project Go school attendance support program for the 2018-2019 school year. The attorney's office agrees to provide truancy prevention/intervention services at Esperanza Academy for students currently in need to additional school attendance support. No fees associated with this MOU.

10. Former Student 696-17: EA has entered into a settlement agreement for JR. Student 696-17. The settlement includes attorney fees at a cost of \$6,750 and \$26,500 for compensatory education.

11. Student JM: EA has entered into a settlement agreement for Student JM. The settlement includes attorney fees at a cost of \$5,500 and tuition funds, (\$27,210.00 current school year) for Student JM at the Hill Top Preparatory Academy through twelfth (12) grade year.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to accept the contracts. Angel Ortiz moved. Danilo Diaz seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Asdrey Irizarry, Mr. William Hopkins - 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Grant Approvals

Mr. David Rossi presented the contracts as follows:

1. 21st Century Community Learning Center Cohort 8 Grant: The administration is recommending the approval of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Cohort 8 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Education to Esperanza Academy Charter School for the use of our after school program. The grant award is in the amount of **\$1,199,886.00 starting January 6, 2019-December 31, 2021 (\$399,962 each year).**

2. U.S. Department of Education Charter Expansion Grant: The administration is recommending the approval of the U.S. Department of Education Charter Expansion grant to Esperanza to support the elementary school expansion. The grant award is in the amount of **\$1,250,000.00 starting October 1, 2018- September 30, 2023 (Receiving an initial \$500,000 and then \$250,000 each subsequent year).**

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to approve the grants. Danilo Diaz moved. Carmen Rocha seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Asdrey Irizarry, Mr. William Hopkins - 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Personnel Report

Mr. David Rossi presented the personnel report as follows:

1. Hirschhorn, Jessica: FT English Language Development Teacher, 8/29/2018
Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Arcadia University
PA Instructional I Certificate: Early Childhood N-3 and Elementary K-6
2. Crable, Bradley: PT Chess Club Coach, 9/26/2018
Bachelor of Science in Graphic Communications and Technology, California University of Pennsylvania.
3. Ortiz, Estephanie: PT Elementary School Receptionist, 9/10/2018
4. Hylton, Olivia: PT Elementary Specials Teacher, 9/11/2018
Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics with Concentration in Financial Science, CUNY New York City College of Technology
PA Certificate: Emergency Certified
5. Covelens, Courtney: FT 2nd Grade Teacher, 8/21/2018
Bachelor of Science in Education- Early Grades PK-4, West Chester University
PA Instructional I Certificate: Grades PK-4
6. Jaquez Peralta, Maria: PT English Language Development Paraprofessional , 8/20/2018
Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Pending 2019), LaSalle University
7. Schschu, Aaron: PT Special Education Paraprofessional, 8/20/2018
Bachelor of Arts in Education, Concentration in Science & Social Studies, Wilmington College (Ohio)

Middle School

1. Jaquez, Peralta, Lusmeri: PT Special Education Paraprofessional, 8/20/2018
Bachelor of Science- Marketing, Pennsylvania State University (in process)
2. Speer, Sandra: FT Spanish Teacher, 8/20/2018
Master of Science in Education, Cabrini College
PA Instructional I Certificate: Spanish K-12
3. Tedeschi, Kristi: FT Special Education Coordinator, 9/10/2018
Master of Science in Education, Walden University
PA Instructional II Certificate: Ment and/or Phys Handicapped K-12, Elementary K-6,
Supervisory Special Education PK-12
4. Fortin, Merari: PT Special Education Paraprofessional, 8/20/2018
Bachelor of Arts in Education, Honduras

5. Zapata-Spinelli, Leocadia: FT Science Teacher, 9/10/2018
Master of Science in Education, Touro College, New York
PA Instructional II Certificate: Biology 7-12, Spanish PK-12
6. Dellomargio, Angelo: PT Chess Coach for 21st Century, 9/4/2018
7. Chavarria, Marsell: PT Dance Teacher for 21st Century, 10/10/2018
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and Choreography, Virginia Commonwealth University

High School

1. Hayes, Meghan: FT English Teacher, 8/20/2018
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts, Cheyney University
PA Instructional I Certificate: English 7-12
2. Perez Serrano, Victor: FT ELA/ELD Teacher, 8/20/2018
Master of Curriculum and Education, English as a Second Language, Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico
PA Certificate: Emergency Certified
3. Davis, Erica: FT College and Career Advisor, 8/27/2018
Master of Science in Education, School Counseling, Monmouth University, New Jersey
PA Educational Specialist I Certificate: Elementary & Secondary School Counselor PK-12
4. Schultz, Karl: FT Social Studies Teacher, 8/29/2018
Bachelor of Arts in History, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA
PA Instructional I Certificate: Social Studies 7-12
5. Cutts, Amirah: FT Special Education Resource Support, 9/5/2018
Master of Education, Arcadia University
PA Instructional II Certificate: Special Education PK-12, Mid-Level Mathematics 6-9, Elementary K-6
6. Guenst, Sierra: PT ELD Paraprofessional, 8/23/2018
Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, Temple University
7. Valentin-Rojas, Irina: PT Administrative Assistant to the Special Education Coordinator, 9/17/18
8. Garcia, Leanny: PT College and Career Advisor, 10/2/2018
Masters of Business Administration, Holy Family University (2019)

Operations/Shared Services

1. Foy, Yvette: FT Registrar, 9/10/2018
Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership, Eastern University
2. Aponte, Stephanie: On-Call Food Service Associate, 8/13/18
3. Batista, Argentina: On-Call Food Service Associate, 9/1/2018
4. Estrella, Ivone: On-Call Food Service Associate, 8/27/18
5. Montanez, Neisha: On-Call Food Service Associate, 9/16/2018
6. Medina, Karen: On-Call Food Service Associate, 9/17/18
7. Perez, Francia: On-Call Food Service Associate, 10/12/18
8. Franco, Hector: On-Call School Climate Officer, 10/1/18
9. Reyes, Leisamari: On-Call School Climate Officer, 10/3/18
10. Barreto Barreto, Stephanie: On-Call School Climate Officer, 10/12/18

SUBSTITUTES

1. Kikendall, Craig: MS, 8/20/2018
Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education
2. Dembo, Michelle: HS, 8/20/2018, HS
Master of Science: Teaching Learning and Curriculum, Secondary English, Drexel University
PA Instructional I Certificate: English 7-12
3. Serrano, Ezalie: HS, 8/27/2018, HS
Bachelor of Arts in English, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
4. Vagelli, Gloria: HS, 8/27/2018, HS
Master in Education-Biology, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina
5. Gilbert, Felicia: HS, 9/24/2018, HS
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, Pennsylvania State University
6. Dehart, Louisa: MS, 9/2018
7. Hackney, Loren: MS,
Master of Science in Marriage Family and Child Therapy, California State University at Fullerton

PA Instructional II Certificate; English 7-12 | Started: 9/17/18

8. Alvin, Malik: MS, 10/18/2018
Bachelor of Arts in Earth Science, Chipola College, Marianna FL

STAFF DEPARTURES FOR THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR:

1. Palau, Arlinda: PT Administrative Assistant to the Special Education Coordinator (HS), 8/24/2018
2. Cartagena, Lorraine: FT Guidance Counselor (HS), 8/24/2018
3. Shellengerber, Kelly: FT Special Education Science Teacher (HS), 8/24/2018
4. Steinmetz, Dan: FT Special Education Teacher (HS), 8/24/2018
5. Demshick, Ruth: FT Special Education Coordinator (ES/MS), 8/24/2018
6. Porterfield, Rachel: FT Special Education ELA Teacher (MS), 9/10/2018
7. Berman, Barbara: FT Science Teacher (MS), 8/31/2018
8. Reyes, Leisamari: On Call School Climate Officer, 10/15/2018

On-Leave:

- Sara Thomas English Language Development Teacher (MS)

Vacancies:

HS:

- FT Special Education ELA Teacher
- FT Special Education Science Teacher
- FT Social Studies Teacher

MS:

- FT Special Education ELA Teacher

ES:

- PT Spanish Teacher

Staff Transitions:

1. Cote, Natalie: Previous Position On-Call Administrative Assistant, New Position: PT Administrative Assistant to Director of Operations (HS), 9/11/18
2. Lankau, Stephanie: Previous Position FT ELD Teacher, New Position: On-Call Substitute (ES), 8/20/18

3. Nater, Jaime: Previous Position PT School Climate Officer, New Position: FT School Climate Officer (HS), 9/16/2018
4. Montes, Daniel: Previous Position FT School Climate Officer, New Position: FT Behavior Support Specialist (ES), 8/22/2018
5. Luna, Nashiale: Previous Position On-Call School Climate Officer, New Position: FT School Climate Officer (ES), 8/20/2018
6. Butler, Donovan: Previous Position On-Call Maintenance, New Position: On-Call Food Service Worker (8/20/2018)
7. Morales, Liset: Previous Position FT School Climate Officer, New Position: FT Lead School Climate Officer (HS), 8/22/2018
8. Burrows, Meredith: Previous Position FT Spanish Teacher, New Position: FT Spanish Teacher & Department Head at MS, (8/22/2018)
9. Roman, Amanda: Previous Position FT Special Education Teacher, New Position: FT Special Education Teacher & Department Head at MS, (8/22/2018)

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to approve the personnel report. Jeremy Ibrahim moved. Angel Ortiz seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Asdrey Irizarry, Mr. William Hopkins - 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Open Enrollment Dates

Mr. David Rossi proposed to hold Open Enrollment for the 2019-2020 from July 1- November 21, 2018. It is also proposed to hold a lottery Monday, December 10, 2018.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to approve the personnel report. Angel Ortiz moved. Danilo Diaz seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Angel Ortiz, Ms. Asdrey Irizarry, Mr. William Hopkins - 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

CEO Report

Mr. David Rossi has informed that the SDP has appealed our redirection funds for the past two years. The district has requested a continuance and it is unclear if the hearing will take place.

Act 55 requires school board training for Board members seated after July 1, 2018. The training is available online. An email will be sent to all members advising of the new requirement. The training is four-hours.

Act 44 is a new initiative from the state for school safety and security. There is a survey that needs to be completed, safety assessments, and there is 60 million available in funding via a grant.

Executive Session

Next Meeting – December 13, 2018 at 5:30 pm

Meeting Adjournment

Board of Trustees Secretary

Date

Minutes Taken by Yesenia Garcia