



## **Board of Trustees Meeting**

Thursday, December 14, 2017  
301 West Hunting Park Avenue- Library  
Philadelphia PA 19140  
5:30 pm

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**Board Member Present:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Mrs. Nancy Santiago Negrón, Mr. Brandon Fuller, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Ms. Asdry Irizarry

**Board Member Absent:** Rev. Luis Cortes, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Mrs. Carmen Rocha, Rev. Magaly Martinez

**Staff/Management Present:** Mr. David Rossi, Mr. William Hopkins, Mr. David Solivan, Ms. Tania Diaz, Mr. Nate Stringfield, Ms. Kim Chung, Ms. Lori Walinsky, Mr. Jorge Calixto, Ms. Tania Ramos, Mr. Stephen Casey, Mr. Jonathan Young, Ms. Yesenia Garcia

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### **Introduction/ Greetings**

Rev. Roger Zepernick welcomed new Board Member, Ms. Asdry Irizarry. The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm with 7 members present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2017 Board Meeting. Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim motioned. Mr. Brandon Fuller seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Mrs. Nancy Santiago Negrón, Mr. Brandon Fuller, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Danilo Diaz- 7

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

### **Financial Audit**

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the financial audit. Rev. John Rice motioned. Ms. Wanda Novales seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Asdry Irizarry, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Mrs. Nancy Santiago Negrón, Mr. Brandon Fuller, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Danilo Diaz - 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

### **Monthly Financial Report**

Rev. Roger Zepernick has informed that Ms. Wanda Novales has requested to be part of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Hopkins informed current ratio is at 0.48.

The Board discussed strategies to prepare for a potential year-end lost. Discussed potential PSP grants for technical assistant and expansion. Administration will update the board on any potential strategies at the February meeting.

### **Comparative PVAAS Report**

Ms. Lori Walinsky presented recently released Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) data for grades 6-12. Esperanza Academy ranked first place in ELA, Algebra 1, Literature and Biology when compared to state schools with the same grade span and demographics. The school ranked third place in Mathematics.

### **Elementary School Instruction Report**

Ms. Kim Chung informed that 93 parents attended the Parent Teacher Conferences last month. Thanksgiving meals were donated to parents in needs. These meals were provided by the office of Councilwoman Maria Quiñones-Sanchez.

Reading assessments were made to all first graders and results reveal that over 50% of the population are reading below level. The following strategies are being used to help students increase their reading levels: use literacy skills in small groups during centers, high frequency words are continuously being used and tutoring groups.

The Board would like to see a breakout of reading level by percentage rather than raw numbers concerning students who are reading and doing mathematics at grade level.

### **Middle School Instruction Report**

Ms. Tania Diaz reported that conversations have started with Mr. Calixto on revitalizing the Instructional Design Guide. Second round of benchmark testing have been administered and results should be available for consequent meeting. Academic Probation Program is close to ending and almost all students completed required assignments. This program was started in order to assist students who failed ELA and/or Math the prior school year. Students start the new year in the Academic Probation Program requiring them to attend 8th period tutoring four days a week.

### **High School Instruction Report**

Mr. Jorge Calixto reported that he continues to work with Ms. Tania Diaz on aligning the Instructional Design Guide. Several strategies have been implemented in order to strengthen student's mathematics and reading skills.

Benchmark testing is complete and results have been distributed to teachers in order to identify student's weakness and strength.

The eighth grade exploration program is in full swing. The program was led by Ms. Rebecca DiSalvo at the high school level. High school students are paired with eighth graders who have the opportunity to see the different majors offered.

## **Personnel Report**

Mr. David Rossi presented the report:

### **NEW HIRES**

#### **Middle School**

1. Hudson, Sabrina: PT Administrative Assistant to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Coordinator, 12/18/2017  
Bachelor of Social Work, LaSalle University

#### **High School**

1. Schreiber, Jeana: FT English Teacher, 12/01/2017  
Bachelor of Science in Education, West Chester University  
Pennsylvania Certification: Instructional I English 7-12
2. Bonilla, Grecia: PT EL Paraprofessional, 12/18/2017  
Master of Science in Administration and Justice, University of Phoenix

#### **Operations/Shared Services**

1. Carias, Jelissa: On-Call Special Projects Coordinator, 11/6/2017  
Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, New York University
2. Torres, Marcos: On-Call Maintenance Worker, 11/9/2017
3. Cruz, Crystal: On-Call School Climate Officer, 11/29/2017
4. Luna, Nashiale: On-Call School Climate Officer, 11/29/2017
5. Batista, Naisha: On-Call Food Service Worker, 12/18/2017
6. Santa, Libia: On-Call Food Service Worker, 12/18/2017

### **SUBSTITUTES**

1. Hamilton, Myron; Substitute Teacher (MS)  
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Temple University
2. Vagelli, Gloria: Substitute Teacher (HS)  
Master in Education (Biology), University of La Plata, Argentina
3. Stachowicz, Rebecca: Substitute Teacher (HS)  
Bachelor of Arts in Music, Berklee College of Music
4. Kikendall, Craig: Substitute Teacher (HS)  
Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education, Cairn University

### **STAFF DEPARTURES FOR THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR:**

1. Johnson, Parisian; PT School Climate Officer (MS) 10/30/2017
2. Gilbert, Angelina; PT ESL Paraprofessional (HS) 10/31/2017

3. Vega, Christina; FT Administrative Assistant to the Special Education Coordinator (ES/MS) 10/31/2017
4. Casilla, Adriano: On-Call Maintenance Worker, 11/14/2017
5. Stokes, Andre: FT Math Teacher (HS), 12/15/2017
6. Gomez, Cassity: FT Special Education English Teacher (HS), 12/22/2017\*
7. Strunk, Eden: FT Social Student Teacher (HS), 1/2/2018\*
8. Torres, Kenneth: PT Maintenance Worker (HS), 1/5/2018\*
9. Carey Zeigler: Special Education Coordinator (ES/MS), 1/8/18\*
10. Andrew Rosado: Director of Educational Technology (Shared Services), 1/8/18\*

**On-Leave:**

1. *Cote, Natalee*
2. *Serrano, Jose*

**Vacancies:**

**HS:**

- PT Special Education Paraprofessional
- PT Social Studies Teacher
- FT Special Education English Teacher\* 12/22/2017
- FT Social Studies Teacher\* 1/2/2018

**MS:**

- None

**ES:**

- PT Spanish Teacher

**ES/MS**

- Special Education Coordinator 1/8/18

**K-12**

- Speech/Language Therapist
- Director of Educational Technology 1/8/18

**Staff Transitions:**

1. Vargas, Jonathan: Previous Position On Call School Climate Officer, New Position: PT School Climate Officer (HS)
2. Rivera, Jose: Previous Position PT School Climate Officer, New Position: Temporary FT School Climate Officer (MS)
3. Allende-Averette, Isa: Previous Position PT Special Education Paraprofessional: New Position: Interim Administrative Assistant to the Special Education Coordinator (ES/MS)
4. Hernandez, Maria: Previous Position PT Spanish Teacher (ES), New Position: FT Spanish Teacher (HS)
5. Visentin, Stephen: Previous Position On-Call Substitute: New Position: FT Math Teacher (HS)

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Personnel Report. Rev. John Rice motioned. Mr. Brandon Fuller seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Asdry Irizarry Mrs. Wanda Novales, Mrs. Nancy Santiago Negron, Mr. Brandon Fuller, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Danilo Diaz - 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

### **Contract Approvals**

Mr. David Rossi presented the contract approvals as follows:

1. **Artistas y Musicos Latino Americanos (AMLA):** The administration is recommending the approval of the contract between AMLA and Esperanza Academy Charter School for providing music instructor who will teach lessons and create the opportunity of creating an ensemble. **Grand total: \$25,132** for the 2017-18 academic school year.
2. **Curriculum Associates:** The administration is recommending the approval of the contract between Curriculum Associates and Esperanza Academy Charter School. This contract is for the use of I-Ready software. The software provided is diagnostics and instruction for math and reading. **Total cost \$4,560.**
3. **Aleamar Consulting, Inc.:** The administration is recommending the approval of the contract between Aleamar Consulting, Inc. and Esperanza Academy Charter School for serving as an E-Rate consultant for program year 21 (2018-19) **in the sum of \$7,250.00.**

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Contract Approvals Report. Mr. Brandon Fuller motioned. Ms. Asdry Irizarry seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Asdry Irizarry Mrs. Wanda Novales, Mrs. Nancy Santiago Negron, Mr. Brandon Fuller, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Danilo Diaz - 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

### **Grant Approval**

Mr. David Rossi presented the grant approval as follows:

1. **Mentoring Grant:** The administration is recommending the approval of the grant from Esperanza, Inc., National Programs Department to Esperanza Academy Charter School for the use of our Mentoring program. The grant award is in the amount of **\$9,200.00.**

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Grant Approval Report. Rev. John Rice motioned. Ms. Wanda Novales seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Asdry Irizarry Mrs. Wanda Novales, Mrs. Nancy Santiago Negron, Mr. Brandon Fuller, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Danilo Diaz - 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

### **CEO Report**

David Rossi informed that PSP visited the Elementary and Middle School on Wednesday, July 13, 2017. The representatives toured the building, observed classrooms, and spoke to key personnel.

An SRC meeting was held Thursday, December 7, 2017 to discuss concerns regarding the Charter Amendment Policy that would conflict with existing PA charter school law. The SRC members tabled the policy until January and would invite charter operators to be part of the revision process.

Changes in the Annual Charter Evaluations were discussed at a meeting hosted by the School District of Philadelphia. Overall the charter community views the evaluation as having issues and proposed framework is not a valid measure of a charter schools' performance.

PA House Bill 97 is the latest legislation. There is a contingent that feels it helps to enact Special Education cuts that have been proposed by a 2013 Special Education Funding Commission.

There is no movement on the addition of 800 students for the K-5 expansion. Several attempts have been made to get on the next SRC meeting agenda. Contact has been made at the Mayor's office to discuss concerns of the future of the SRC and the seating of the local school board.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02pm. Ms. Asdry Irizarry motioned. Ms. Wanda Novales seconded. The vote was as follows:

**Yeas:** Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Asdry Irizarry Mrs. Wanda Novales, Mrs. Nancy Santiago Negron, Mr. Brandon Fuller, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim, Mr. Danilo Diaz - 8

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

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Board of Trustees Secretary

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Date

Minutes Taken by Yesenia Garcia