



ESPERANZA ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting

October 29th, 2015
301 West Hunting Park Avenue - Library
Philadelphia PA 19140
5:30pm – 7:30pm

Board Members Present: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Denise Rivera, Carmen Torres and Brandon Fuller

Board Absent: Danilo Diaz, Rev. John Rice; Vice Chairperson, Rev. Luis Cortes; Ex-Officio

Staff/Management Present: Rev. Danny Cortes, William Hopkins, David Solivan, Jelissa Carias, Ellen Espaillat, Rebecca DiSalvo, Nathaniel Stringfield, Tania Diaz, Lori Walinsky, Angela Smith, Yohana Giraldo, Benjamin Brous, Kenneth Medina

The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm meeting quorum with 6 members present.

I. Greetings

Rev. Cortes acknowledged the death of Mr. Rossi's mother Catherine Rossi. Rev. Cortes explained that Mr. Rossi would not be present for this reason. The board engaged in conversation as a celebration of her life.

II. Minutes*

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to approve minutes from the August 13-14th Board Retreat. Rev. Martinez motioned. Mrs. Rocha seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Carmen Rocha, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Denise Rivera, Carmen Torres and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

III. Disciplinary Subcommittee Resolutions*

EAHS-3

Proposed Student Expulsion – K.P.

RESOLVED, that the student K.P. *will not be expelled* for a period of thirty days. The student K.P. was brought up for expulsion for fighting and withdrew before expulsion. The student K.P. wishes to return to the school and therefore a hearing was held.



Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the resolution. Mrs. Rocha motioned. Mr. Fuller seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Carmen Rocha, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Denise Rivera, Carmen Torres and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

IV. Middle School Instruction Report

Mrs. Diaz discussed that the acuity benchmarks are going to be administered three times within the school year. There will be three half days of professional development for staff to discuss data and the acuity benchmark results with teachers. The middle school has gained 11 new employees which are being mentored by returning staff. The schools' schedule has been changed from 43 minutes to a block schedule. The 8th grade will take part in Shadow Day in collaboration with the high school. The 8th grade will have a scheduled trip to Temple University. The middle school will be hosting a breakfast with the administration in recognition of the students who scored proficient or advanced on their PSSA's.

V. High School Instruction Report*

Mrs. Smith indicated that the school is focused on increasing the PVASS scores which are based on individual student growth. The high school will be using multiple sources to gauge benchmarks including Acuity, I-Ready, and Khan Academy. All new teachers have been partnered with a returning staff as a mentor. Mrs. Smith has begun a new initiative called Teachers taking Tuesdays which is a mini professional development series for all instructional staff. There was a survey sent out to staff to evaluate the administration of which results will be forthcoming next week.

Follow Ups:

- There are 18 English as a Second Language students who were exited. There were 2 students exited from the Special Education Department and 33 who graduated in 2014-2015.
- All documents are being worked on for translation.
- Status of suspended students was attached.

Mrs. Smith stated she wanted to make a suggestion for board approval on the graduation requirements. She would like to include passing the Biology Keystone as a graduation requirement.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the addition to the graduation requirements. Rev. Martinez motioned. Mrs. Rivera seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Carmen Rocha, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Denise Rivera, Carmen Torres and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Mrs. Smith listed some past events which include the College Fair, Star Party and the High School Fair. Mrs. Smith also stated that on November 4th the Engineering Team would attend Drexel University for the Mouse Trap Competition.

VI. Contract Approval*

Mr. Medina presented the following:

1. **Ronda Atwater:** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Master of Arts in English, Writing and Analysis Track from Arcadia University.
2. **Jamie Glisson:** Independent Contractor, Long term Substitute Teacher, \$150.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Temple University.
3. **Marc Gottfried:** Independent Contractor, Long term Substitute Teacher, \$150.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Arcadia University.
4. **David Grubbs:** – Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Science in Physics from Lincoln University and currently pursuing a graduate degree in Electrical Engineering at Drexel University.
5. **Brittany Kane:** Independent Contractor, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Science in Biology from Sacred Heart University and expecting to complete a graduate degree in Biomedical Sciences with Research Concentration from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in November 2015.
6. **Naum Khurgin:** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Master of Science in Mathematics and Physics from Vitebsk University (Belarus).
7. **George Maundu:** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biology from the University of Nairobi.
8. **Paul Mencil** –Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Physics from Temple University.
9. **Jean Noecker:** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed.



Master of Science in Instruction with a specialization in Science from the University of Delaware.

10. **Daniel O'Brien:** Independent Contractor, Long Term Substitute Teacher, \$150.00 per diem as needed. Master of Science in Secondary Education from Holy Family University.
11. **Emiddia Quiles:** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Arts in Psychology Argosy University.
12. **Barbara Reiman:** Independent Contractor, Long Term Substitute Teacher, \$150.00 per diem as needed. Master of Science in Secondary Education from Holy Family University.
13. **Sarah Rich** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Arts in English from Goshen College.
14. **Michael Rodriguez:** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Education from Emerson College.
15. **Amanda Roman:** Independent Contractor, Long Term Substitute Teacher, \$150.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Arts in History from East Stroudsburg University.
16. **Brittany Vetter:** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Arts in English from Temple University.
17. **David Weigner:** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Arts in History from Goshen College.
18. **Brian Wong:** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Master of Science in Education Teaching, Learning and Curriculum from Drexel University.
19. **Francis Yost:** Independent Contractor, Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per diem as needed. Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies from Christian Bible College and Seminary.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the contract approval report. Mr. Fuller motioned. Mrs. Rocha seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Carmen Rocha, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Denise Rivera, Carmen Torres and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0



VII. Personnel Report*

Mr. Medina presented the personnel report. The new hires are as follows:

1. Yahaira Alicea: PT Food Service Worker (6-12)
Lorenzo Coballes Gandia High School
2. Isa Allende-Averette : PT Administrative Assistant to DSD (MS)
Slidell Baptist Seminary, A.A. in Theology, Minor: Biblical Counseling
3. David Bronstein: Math Teacher (HS)
Touro College, B.S. in Mathematics
Highly Qualified Teacher
4. Elisabeth Coffman: 6th Grade Teacher (MS)
Cairn University, B.S. in Early Childhood Education and B.S. in Biblical Studies
PA Certification: Elementary K-6 and Early Childhood N-3
5. Melissa Diaz: PT ESL Paraprofessional (HS)
Mercy Vocational High School Graduate
6. Ryan Garven: Health and Physical Education Teacher (MS)
Cairn University, B.S. in Health and Physical Education and B.S. in Biblical Studies
PA Certification: Pending. Highly Qualified Teacher
7. Widalys Gonzalez: Science Teacher (HS)
Drexel University, M.S. in Chemistry and M.S. of Instruction
PA Certification: Chemistry (7-12) and General Science (7-9)
8. Jenloy Herrera: PT ESL Paraprofessional (HS)
Penn State University, B.A. in Crime, Law and Justice and B.A. in Spanish Language
9. Alpha Jalloh: Math Teacher (HS)
Temple University, B.S. in Mathematics
PA Certification: Mathematics (7-12)
10. Jennifer Juanacio: PT ESL Paraprofessional (HS)
Penn State University, B.A in Spanish
11. Jose Lopez: Head Cook (6-12)
Jose Ramon Rivera High School
12. Maria Oshoko: Science Teacher (HS)
Temple University, M.A in Education (Biology and General Science) and M.A. in African American Studies



PA Certification: Biology (7-12) and General Science (7-12)

13. Juliana Quintero: PT ESL Paraprofessional (HS)
Indiana University, M.A. in Applied Communication
14. Quadir Robinson: PT Food Service Worker (6-12)
Camden High School
15. Kelly Shellenberger: Special Education Teacher (HS)
Saint Joseph's University, B.S. in Education
PA Certification: Elementary K-6 and Special Education (N-12)
14. Reena Thomas: Science Teacher (HS)
Grand Canyon University, M.A. in Secondary Education
Highly Qualified Teacher: Undergraduate degree in Biology
16. Shiata Urey: Special Education Teacher (MS)
Neumann University, M.S. in Educational Leadership and Human Services
PA Certification: K-6, English (7-12), and Special Education (PK-12)

There were 13 departures and 3 vacancies.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the personnel report. Mrs. Rocha motioned. Mr. Fuller seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Carmen Rocha, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Denise Rivera, Carmen Torres and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

VIII. Open Enrollment*

Mr. Medina proposed that open enrollment for the Academy end on November 7th.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the suggestion for open enrollment. Mrs. Rivera motioned. Mr. Fuller seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Carmen Rocha, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Denise Rivera, Carmen Torres and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

IX. Wellness Policy*



Mr. Medina presented the changes made to the existing Wellness Policy. The changes reflect recommendations from the National School Lunch program and edits by Board Counsel Walter Toliver. Mrs. Carias reviewed the edits in detail with the board and stated the need for a wellness committee.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the updates to the wellness policy. Mr. Fuller motioned. Ms. Torres seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Carmen Rocha, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Denise Rivera, Carmen Torres and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

X. Nesso Update

Mrs. Walinsky stated that she was having some technical issues with a slow internet connection due to the high amount of data needed to run the program. The NESSO dashboard is operational at the high school. It displays a student breakdown for keystones and acuity.

XI. Comparative Analysis

Mrs. Walinsky gave an overview of the PVASS data for the Academy. The 6th and 7th grade showed moderate evidence of improvement in Math. The 8th grade met the standard for growth in Math. The keystones showed significant evidence that the school exceeded the standard for growth in Math. In the PSSA comparison, Esperanza outperformed the neighborhood K-8 and 6-8 schools.

XII. Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Hopkins stated the total assets are \$3.6 Million. The current ratio is 0.76. There is approximately \$700,000 owed to related parties.

Mr. Medina explained that the budget was operating at a deficit of \$220,000. Mr. Medina stated that revenue was running behind due to the school districts payment being a reflection of student enrollment from the 2014-2015 school year.

Mr. Hopkins stated that although the state has not resolved the issue of the budget impasse, there has been no interruption to funding. Esperanza Inc. has worked to procure a \$6,000,000 credit line company wide to aid in the event that funding was to cease. Mr. Hopkins also stated that the school was in the process of a financial audit which would be presented in a future meeting. In the audit would be reflected a liability for PSER's participation.

XIII. CEO Report



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Mrs. Carias presented the CEO report in Mr. Rossi's absence. Mrs. Carias stated that the MOU with the Philadelphia School District was signed and mailed to the Charter School Office. The school had a safe opening. The K-5 resubmission is due on November 15th and would be submitted by Esperanza Inc. Special Education Cyclical Monitoring was conducted with no findings. The Academy has not heard a response to the 21st Century grant application which can be attributed to the state budget impasse. There were several visitors to the school including Mayor Nutter, PSP and Dr. Hite. Several administrators from the Academy also partook in a visit to the Haverford School. The Academy also participated in the Puerto Rican Parade.

(IV. Adjournment

A motion was called the end the meeting by Rev. Zepernick at 7:11pm. Rev. Martinez motioned. Ms. Torres Seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Carmen Rocha, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Denise Rivera, Carmen Torres and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0



Board of Trustees Secretary

12/03/15
Date

Minutes Taken by Ellen Espaillat