

Meeting Date Held: 7/19/2021

Time Held: 6:18 – 7:05 p.m.

Location: Girls Athletic Leadership School, 4220 S. Maryland Parkway

1. Call to order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Vice Board President, Barbara Wiggins at 6:18 pm. Present were, Karen Vaughan, Carmen Gilbert, Barbara Wiggins, Lisa Windom, Greg Esposito and Rosiland Bivings. Absent was Jules Schoolmeester, Patrica Farley, Gyna Castillo and Tara Meierkord. Also present were non-voting participants, Jennifer McCloskey (Executive Director) and Angela Zobrack (Head of School).

1. For Information (Introduction of New Head of School)

Ms. Zobrack was introduced to the board. Ms. Zobrack detailed her extensive experience that led her to this position. She also expressed her excitement for this new challenge. She expressed her devotion to students and teachers and her desire to building relationships that will enhance our school. Ms. Zobrack explained she will always be “loud and proud” and very outspoken for our students.

2. For Action (Last Months Board Minutes)

Mr. Esposito made a motion to approve last month’s minutes; Ms. Bivings seconded the motion. The motion passed, unanimously.

3. For Information and Action (Contingency Plan for School Opening)

The board was presented our plan for a contingency facility for school opening. This plan has been developed because our new building may not be ready for our opening date. This plan, as included in our board materials, details an opening for a short time at the Boys & Girls Club. The building county inspections will determine our timeline for moving to the new building. It should not be more than two weeks before we can make the move. This plan must be approved by the SPCSA. Mr. Esposito made a motion to approve the contingency plan; Ms. Vaughan seconded the motion. The motion passed, unanimously.

4. For Information and Action (COVID Plan /Staff Handbook)

The updated Safe School Reopening Plan in response to COVID was presented to the board by Ms. McCloskey. The plan was discussed by the board. It was deemed an effective plan.

The updated Staff Handbook was presented to the board and will be presented to the staff with all new information. Ms. Vaughan made a motion to approve the updated Staff Handbook including new safety procedures (COVID, etc.); Ms. Bivings seconded the motion. The motion passed, unanimously.

5. For Information (ED/HOS Reports)

The board toured the new building to see the progress and were impressed with the new school building. We will be opening at the Boys & Girls Club for a very short time to complete construction and get the required permits in place.

We are still waiting on several grants. The Dairy Council, United Way, Cox and our new bank are a few of the grants we have applied for. As well as a new grant from First Foundation for \$28,000 for Special Education.

Our enrollment is progressing well. 85% of our students are returning. 8th grade is closed. We still have openings for around 40 more students. The Stephen Jackson Event did get us 8 new possible students. We do need to reach our goal of 160 to be fully funded. The school needs school supplies, especially 1 subject notebooks, mechanical pencils, plastic pencil cases, glue sticks, and colored pencils and markers.

We are fully staffed for next year. This includes our support staff.

6. For Information (Board Member Reports)

Mr. Esposito reported that he is continuing to work to get more support from elected officials. He feels he will get a few people out to the ribbon cutting.

Ms. Castillo and Ms. Farley were absent. However, Ms. McCloskey reported that our external audit committee is progressing and should be functional in three weeks. We will have a report for the next board meeting. All committees will update next meeting.

7. Information (Treasurer's Report)

ED McCloskey, standing in for Board Treasurer Meierkord, reviewed our year end financial statements.

GALS is ending the year with a 288k surplus. Please keep in mind however that GALS received a substantial amount of 1x money last year through both the CSP and COVID grants (approximately 600k). Without that money GALS would have operated at a \$300k loss. ED McCloskey reviewed the balance sheet with the BOD and commented that our current bank balance is about \$150k, receivables from the state for grants are \$170k and that we have a payable of \$80k. She is having to very closely manage cash flow currently to cover all necessary bills. Member Esposito asked what is necessary to break even next year. ED McCloskey responded that meeting our 160-student enrollment is critical to covering our fixed lease expense and staffing costs.

A question was asked about when the external audit will kick off and ED McCloskey responded she anticipates that occurring in the next few weeks.

8. Information (Upcoming Events)

There will be a board training to coincide with our October board meeting. The training will be at the GALS school.

Our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held on August 6, 2021, at 2:30 at our new building. 4220 South Maryland Parkway. This should be a good opportunity for fund raising. The board was encouraged to bring potential donors. There will be opportunities to donate several ways. Pavers (bricks for the parking lot); a Wishing Tree will be set up; and the opportunity for continuing donations will be available.

Our next board meeting will be held on August 16, 2021, from 6:00 to 7:00. The meeting will be held at our new school location in person.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.