

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF

NORTHSTAR ACADEMIES, INC.

September 15, 2020

A meeting of the Governance Board of North Star Academies, Inc. was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. This meeting was scheduled previously to occur at Palm Beach Preparatory Charter 3525 Congress Ave, Palm Springs, FL 33461. However, in light of Executive Order 20-69 (Emergency Management- COVID-19 - Local Government Public Meetings), dated March 20, 2020, which allows the Governance Board to "utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing," this meeting will be conducted by the Governance Board via electronic communication and will be live-streamed on Zoom.

The following Board members were present via Zoom video conference: Leonard Posey, Board Chairman, Ira Paul, Stephanie Sears and Beth Adelman, Members.

Also present via Zoom video conference: Thom Jackson, President & CEO, EdisonLearning; Dr. Sherrell Hobbs, SVP Achievement Results and Operations, EdisonLearning; Michelle Schmitt, Senior Controller, EdisonLearning; Jennifer Anglin, Director of Career & Technical Education/Grants; Dr. Eunice Casey, Director of Specialized Student Services, EdisonLearning; Shreya Amin, Director, Data Analytics, EdisonLearning; Chatiela Underwood, Regional Project Manager, EdisonLearning; Karrie Dunn, Director of Talent, Innovation and Culture, EdisonLearning; Marines Alvarez, Talent and Culture Manager, EdisonLearning; Alejandro Madrigal, Principal Academic Officer, CG Bethel High School; Dan Walke, Principal Academic Officer, Chambers High School; Kerry-Ann Brammer, Principal Academic Officer, Andrews High School; Kisha Bellande-Francis, Principal Academic Officer, Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy; Tanya Chauncey, Principal Academic Officer, NorthStar Academy of Pinellas County; Terrence Narinesingh, Principal Academic Officer, Sunrise High School; Jeff Wood, Director, Tripp Scott LLP (serving as Board Counsel); Thomas Sternberg, Tripp Scott LLP; Ralph Arza, Principal, Arza and Associates; Luis Sullivan, Assistant to Mr. Ralph Arza; and Mary Ezzard, Southcrest Management, LLC.

The meeting was called to order at 4:34pm.

A quorum was present.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Leonard Posey. Ms. Shreya Amin, recorded the minutes.

There being no Public Comment, the first order of business was Board approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Ira Paul motioned that the Board approve the minutes from the Board meeting on August 11, 2020. Ms. Beth Adelman seconded, and the vote carried unanimously. There were no Out of Field Waivers.

Governance Matters

Mr. Posey explained that during the Board meeting held on August 11, 2020, he reported that he was waiting for final approval from Pinellas County and Palm Beach County. However, following that Board meeting he received the requisite approvals from both school districts. .

Legislative Updates

Mr. Ralph Arza provided a legislative update regarding school board elections. Mr. Arza emphasized that school choice was an important campaign issue for many candidates in the upcoming local and federal elections. Mr. Arza also shared that in several counties teachers and staff were already reporting back to their buildings and that the teachers' union in a specific county had filed a class action lawsuit against the school district for not creating and fostering a good healthy working environment. Finally, Mr. Arza discussed the importance of FTE and enrollment and shared that several districts had shown enthusiasm around the CTE programs that NorthStar Academies had launched.

School Matters

The Principal Academic Officer for each school presented their respective school report, focusing on the school's current enrollment, enrollment and marketing strategies, and school events and updates.

Mr. Jackson shared that EdisonLearning, Chambers High School and the landlord for the facility in which Chambers is located has accepted the lease terms. Mr. Jackson circulated the lease to the Board, which required a vote. Chairman Posey called for a motion to approve the lease for Chambers High School. The motion was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Ms. Adelman, and the vote carried unanimously.

EdisonLearning Reports

Dr. Hobbs informed the Board that professional development sessions for school leaders and the staff members were held. The topics varied from Human Resources and employee healthcare benefits to best practices around lesson planning and the importance of tracking data. Dr. Hobbs then shared the process and screenshots of the data "trackers" that the schools are using to stay up-to-date with school data and data trends.

Enrollment and Marketing Report

Ms. Underwood informed the Board that the Marketing Campaign has been launched, which include commercials, using student voice at each school, radio ads, social media advertising, billboards, and print media drops. Ms. Underwood also presented an enrollment snapshot.

CTE Report

Ms. Anglin reported that staff orientation has been completed and that EdisonLearning is providing a CTE portal for each student, which allows students and teachers to access their eCourses.

Mr. Jackson added that there are ongoing negotiations with Palm Beach County to bring CTE to Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy and he will update the Board as he has further information.

ESE and ESOL Report

Dr. Eunice Casey shared ESE and ESOL strategies for this coming school year, specifically focusing on sharing best practices in Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings and standardizing compliance processes and systems across schools.

Personnel Matters

Ms. Alvarez presented a list of new hires and vacancies at each of the schools. She discussed strategies that Human Resources is employing to find quality teachers for the school; recognizing there is a nationwide and a statewide teacher shortage.

Mr. Paul motioned to formalize the appointment of Dr. Kisha Bellande-Francis as the Principal Academic Officer of Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy. Ms. Adelman seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Strategic Matters

Mr. Jackson presented the recommended growth plan for NorthStar Academies. Mr. Jackson stated that the proposal is to grow the NorthStar Academies brand as a brand of high-performing alternative education schools from which students go on to enroll in post-secondary institutions, pursue a technical career, enlist, or otherwise gain employment.

The recommended growth plan has two phases: Phase 1, which was launched in the 2019-2020 school year, involved obtaining approval for 5 new schools. It will be completed in the 2021 – 2022 school year when the remaining 4 schools are in operation. Phase 2 will be launched in February 2021, when NorthStar Academies submits applications for 3 additional charters (i.e., in Polk, Duval, and St. Lucie (Ft. Pierce)). The Board discussed demographic and neighborhood differences between Ft. Pierce and other locations, which exposed the need for a K-12 school in Ft. Pierce.

Mr. Jackson discussed in detail the need in each area, education statistics around students who are held back in elementary and middle grades, and tentative school structure at each new location. Mr. Jackson further recommended engaging Raquelle Espinoza, the consultant who helped to prepare the applications for Phase 1. Ms. Adelman motioned to approve the growth strategy recommendation as well as engaging with Ms. Espinoza to complete the three new charter applications. Mr. Paul seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Next, Mark Ezzard and Mary Ezzard presented a proposal for a potential site in Hillsborough County instead of the 2 originally planned sites in Town 'n' Country and Palm River. Mary presented demographic data and school grades of schools in the neighborhood of the proposed site. Mary also shared why the new proposed site better served the needs within the neighborhood. The Board and Mary discussed zoning, parking, bus routes and other variables related to the site selection.

Mr. Paul motioned to approve the new location, subject to school district's approval of the location and the actual details and financials of the consolidation of the two locations. Ms. Adelman seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Mary Ezzard also presented a proposal for a site in Palm Beach County and shared neighborhood demographics as well as data that showed that the nearest high school is overcrowded. The district is aware of this problem and is looking forward to discussing details of the new school. Mr. Paul motioned to move forward in the process to research a new location and to have a special Board meeting in 2 weeks on September 29, 2020, when the details and financials of both of the proposed locations will be discussed. Ms. Adelman seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Mr. Jackson shared that PBPCA is subleasing until 2026 from Property Development. The original lease runs out in 2022 and Property Development has agreed to allow PBPCA to buy out the original lease. Mr. Posey motioned to approve EdisonLearning and PBPCA to continue to negotiate terms with Property Development and to discuss details during the next meeting. Ms. Adelman seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Finance Reports

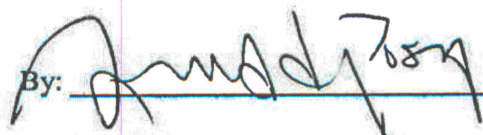
Michelle Schmitt presented the 2020-2021 School Budgets to the Board. Ms. Schmitt gave details regarding revenues, expenses and net income. Ms. Schmitt reviewed the budget narratives and significant changes with the members. Ms. Adelman made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 budgets. Mr. Paul seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Next, Ms. Schmitt reviewed the Financial Reports for the Board. Ms. Adelman made a motion to approve the Financial Reports for Andrews High School, CG Bethel High School, Chambers High School, Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy, NorthStar Academy of Pinellas County, and Sunrise High School as presented. Mr. Paul seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Ms. Schmitt also presented the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation Plan, and discussed in detail how the funds would be allocated and the amount by which certain teacher salaries can be increased.

Ms. Adelman made a motion to approve the teacher salary increase allocation plans for Andrews High School, CG Bethel High School, Chambers High School, Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy, NorthStar Academy of Pinellas County, and Sunrise High School. Mr. Paul seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Mr. Posey motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Adelman seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

By: 
Title: Board Chair