

1.5.21 WSA Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Board Members:

1. Dr. Sims
2. Dr. Newsom
3. Jason Jones
4. Carlton Campbell (came on at 4:30p; quorum met)

Administration:

1. Dr. Williams-Damond
2. Tiffany Williams

Minutes

- Official Start Time 4:19 pm
- One more Board member needed for quorum (need 4 out of 7). Moving forward with no Board action or vote at this time.
- Discussion to approve the 8th Board member, Atty. Lucretia Burton- no motion or decision made related to no quorum at this point
 - She is in the process of getting her paperwork
- Agenda reviewed by the Attendees via Google forms folder
- Tiffany Spraggins asked to upload mission/vision language to agenda format
- Adoption of the agenda- no action; correction of date to 1.5 instead of 1.11
- Board Meeting Schedule- cannot approve but can discuss
 - 2nd Tuesday of every month, 4-6p CST
 - 3-5p PHX time
 - Once school opens, consider a different time for parents to be able to attend; consider rotation of morning and evening meeting times every other month.
- Agendas and Minutes need to be posted to websites
- Officially hire the school leaders. Offer letters sent and should eventually be put into Board Secretary Book. Date on the offer letter is after the approval.
- Can use the same offer letter as a template for Dr. George Williams (future hire by Twyla)
- At 4:30p, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Board Member, logs on and the Board meets quorum
- Congratulation and overview of state approval by Dr. Sims
- Review proposed By-Laws- will be reviewed by the Board
- Discussion on maximum number of Board members. Minimum and maximum should be placed in the by-laws
 - 7 minimum members required by the State
 - Too many members makes it hard to reach quorum

- Check for Bulletin 126 related to the necessity of physical presence of voting Board members; waived for COVID
- Place the ability to vote remotely in the By-laws
- Pre-Opening Activities for the State
 - Originally- State wanted a full year zero
 - Upload pre-opening list to the Google folder later (older version from Atty. Kim Williams); need to reach out to Dr. Kellie Peterson for an updated version.
 - Dr. Dedrick Sims shared massive list of to-dos before opening (separate meeting with the Board)
 - Board has to operate independently of the Board members
- Will incorporate 30 min of professional development, and LA state training (LA Charter School Association) into each Board meeting
- Post Board meeting at least 24-48 hours prior to the actual meeting; can do on website
 - Post agendas and minutes (truncated minutes; be conservative)
 - No uploading of the video/audio recording of meeting necessary; look at other charter school websites
- Financial Update
 - Budgets are living documents
 - Business Services (Twyla); put together a more realistic budget; not in the red and present to Finance committee
 - Finance committee has to be created
 - Jason Jones & Twyla Williams-Damond need to work on more realistic draft budget (Have by February Board meeting)
 - Make sure the millage numbers are correct
 - Check with 4th sector
 - Send email to Dr. Dedrick Sims for draft budget of previous charter schools
 - Dr. George Williams is given the directory for grants- data base; in New Orleans; George will go and use the service for free.
 - Historical giving data
 - Comprehensive data base
 - Usually cost \$1500/year
 - Free at the library
 - Walton Grant typically only funds larger urban areas such as New Orleans
 - Hard grant to get
 - Can go under one of their vendors to get vendors (New Schools for New Orleans)
 - Contact New Schools for New Orleans
- Loans Updates
 - Access to Federal and State money- July 1 2021
 - Dr. George Williams will look for philanthropic and foundation opportunities in Baton Rouge/New Orleans; also nationwide
 - Pepsi/ Coke
 - Stellar

- Hospitals
 - Banks
- Some costs cannot be negotiated or deferred
 - For example, Salaries- negotiated contract
 - May have to get loans
- School Business & Operations
 - Will be covered by George/Twyla in upcoming meetings
 - Tiffany Spraggins has a Vermilion parish employee pay schedule
 - WSA's pay schedule has to be approved by Board
 - Equal to or 3-5% over the district
 - Opportunity to work with a specific population
 - Quicker advancement opportunities
 - Consider free health insurance for singles and a payment of \$300 towards those that are married.
 - Compare to other rural charter school benefits packages
 - Buy into TRSL? Or 403B plan?
- School Building
 - Temporary until permanent building secured
 - Need to be able to separate middle and high school
 - Bargain with lessors to do build out/ improvements for a higher per sq ft charge
 - Mobile units are an option
 - Option 1: Old Walmart (\$3M + build out)
 - Option 2: Lease old Rite Aid with lessor build-out (will outgrow in a few years)
 - Option 3: Lease old Stage with lessee build-out
 - Option 4: Purchase 10 acres of land (discounted) and build and/or mobile units
 - Option 5: Offer by another non-profit who is willing to build school for WSA
 - Dr. Crystal Morris-Newsom gives concerns over starting in August with a build-out option
 - May need to consider virtual for first year
 - Buying land would provide the school with a large parcel of land for future use, especially for additional campus or sports facility; will meet short-term and long-term goal
- Dr. George Williams logged on via phone at 5:45p CST
 - Some resistance to grant acquisition, but still in progress
- Will aim for August 2021, but will have cut off date of March to ascertain our progress.

Other

- Tiffany Spraggins and Dr. Twyla Williams-Damond will be the ambassadors at the MLK day (1.18)
 - We will use this opportunity to discuss the school

Board Actions

1. Motion to approve the agenda as discussed
 - a. All ayes
 - b. No nays
 - c. Discussion- none
 - d. Agenda is official
 - e. Motion passes

2. Establishing the monthly Board meetings on 2nd Tuesdays at 4-6p CST
 - a. Recommended: Mr. Carlton Campbell
 - b. Second: Dr. Crystal Newsome
 - c. No discussion
 - d. All ayes
 - e. No nays
 - f. Motion passes

3. Motion to hire Tiffany Spraggins as Co-leader of Academics & Instruction
 - a. Moved- Mr. Carlton Campbell
 - b. 2nd-Mr. Jason Jones
 - c. Discussion- none
 - d. All ayes
 - e. No nays
 - f. Motion passes

4. Motion to officially hire Twyla Williams-Damond as Co-leader of Business & Operations
 - a. Moved- Dr. Crystal Newsom
 - b. 2nd- Mr. Jason Jones
 - c. Discussion- none
 - d. All ayes
 - e. No nays
 - f. Motion passes