



Essence Preparatory Public School
Board of Directors Meeting
August 23, 2023
Minutes

The following board members were in attendance:		
Brian Dillard	Mike Frisbie	Henrietta Munoz
Kanwai Sumnani Lopez	Jackie Gorman	George Pedraza
Board members not in attendance:		
Marques Mitchell	Kim Abernethy	Mary Gradney
Staff:	Akeem Brown	Jennipha Ricks
Kizzie Thomas		
Guests:	Lucinda Vigil	

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM by **Chairman Brian Dillard**.

1. Potential Board Member Lucinda Vigil Introduced herself.
2. **Jackie Gorman moved to accept Kim Abernethy’s resignation from the Board. George Pedraza seconded. The motion carried. The board accepts Kim Abernethy’s resignation with regret.**
3. **Pedraza moved to add Lucinda Vigil to the Essence Prep Charter School Board. Mike Frisbie seconded. The motion carried. Lucinda Vigil is elected to the board effective immediately.**
4. **Chair Dillard** named **Gorman** and **Pedraza** to join him as the Board Nominating Committee.
5. Mission Moment:
 - a. **Kizzie Thomas** reported on the high school interns that Essence had this summer through our partnership with Urban Strategies and SA Works. **Superintendent Akeem Brown** elaborated on the importance of the partnership with Urban Strategies and their pass through of funding from the United Way.
 - b. **Brown** shared a video from the first day of school.
6. Superintendent’s Report: **Brown**
 - a. Written report will be sent out.
 - b. Superintendent updates will resume.
 - c. Discussion of transportation issues – the route was too long. Our transportation provided did not have capacity to add another bus. As a solution a vehicle (mini-van) was purchased and adequately insured. This purchase was within the Superintendent’s discretionary purchasing authority. Coach Brown is the primary driver of the vehicle. It is being used to pick up scholars that are near the school.
 - d. We have an armed officer that we got through a co-op of charters that is using off duty SAPD officers. We have had an armed officer on campus for the last three days and it

seems to be going well. A more detailed plan for the next few weeks (trial period) will be provided in the Superintendent's Report

7. Enrollment goal is 220 currently we are at 182. We have reached out to parents using various channels. PK4, Kinder, 1st grade, and 3rd grade have no seats left. There are 38 seats available. Seats are only available in 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades.
8. **Jennipha Ricks** provided a quick overview of the first days of school based on her interaction with parents, teachers and students. It was all positive. **Brown** added that parents have been impressed at how fast we are responding to their feedback and making necessary adjustments.
9. Consent Agenda – **Frisbie Moved to approve the July Minutes. Pedraza seconded. The motion carried. The July Minutes are approved.**
10. Discussion of the purchase of an additional 4.5 Acres located at 439 SE Loop 410.
11. Campus & District Improvement Plan – Goals, Objectives & Strategies presented by **Brown** and **Ricks**. **Kanwai Sumnani Lopez moved to adopt the Campus & District Improvement Plan Goals & Objectives for the 23/24 School Year. Pedraza seconded. The motion carried the Campus & District Improvement Plan Goals & Objectives for the 23/24 School Year has been adopted.**
12. **Ricks** presented changes to the 2023/2024 Academic Calendar. The changes were made to better align with SAISD calendar and to eliminate early release on Friday in response to parent feedback. **Gorman moved to ratify the 2023/2024 Academic Calendar. Sumnani Lopez seconded the motion. The motion carried. The 2023/2024 Academic Calendar is ratified.**
13. **Brown** discussed the HB 3 goals and the plan to workshop, discuss progress, and reevaluate the goals. There will be a more detailed discussion of this in a future meeting.
14. **Brown** announced that we have a new finance director at CSS. We will meet her at the September board meeting. She is working on the July financials, and they will be forwarded to us when completed.
15. **Ricks** reviewed campus data including MAP BOY/EOY and STARR results as well as mitigation strategies. Chair Dillard asked that the Academic Committee meet prior to the next board meeting.
16. **Brown** reported that while we have a full complement of teachers we do have slots available for the “teacher in residence” program.
17. **Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.**