



Essence Preparatory Public School
Board of Directors Meeting
November 15, 2023
Minutes

The following board members were in attendance:		
Brian Dillard	Mike Frisbie	Henrietta Munoz
Kanwai Sumnani Lopez	Jackie Gorman	Lucinda Vigil
	George Pedraza	Marques Mitchell
Board members not in attendance:		
Mary Gradney		
Staff:	Akeem Brown	
Guests:	Jennifer Barbou - Highmark	Cynthia Warrick

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

1. Mission Moment: **Superintendent Brown** shared a video of the Scholars' overnight camping experience at the HEB Foundation campground. Special thanks to Turner Construction for sponsoring the food and to Urban Strategies for sponsoring the bus transportation.
2. Superintendent's Report: **Brown**
 - a. Written report will be sent out tomorrow morning.
 - b. Discussed the performance dashboard in the report that was discussed previously.
3. Enrollment goal is 220 currently we are at 180. We have a waitlist of 116 but we do not have space in those grade levels.
4. **BROWN** reported that SAISD is closing 4 elementary schools within our footprint. Several comments were made at the SAISD board meeting about Essence poaching/stealing students from the district. He as responded to several media inquiries following advice from our PR agency, KBG Texas.
5. **Brown** reported that we will enroll no more than 50 new students in January when we move into the new building. This decision was made by staff in order to preserve the culture of the organization.
6. Consent Agenda – The minutes of the last meeting were approved with the addition of the Chairman's statement after returning from Executive Session.
7. Fiscal reports for the last 3 months have been competed and will be forwarded to the board with the Superintendent's Report. They were received just before the meeting started. The Director of Finance with Charter School Success will be joining us at our next board meeting.
8. **George Pedraza moved and Jackie Gorman seconded to accept the updated supertinent's contract. The motion passed unanimously.**

9. Fund Development Report: **Brown** provided an update of grants and funds raised since the last board meeting.
10. **Pedraza** moved and **Dr. Henrietta Munoz** seconded that we accept the resignation of **Mary Gradney** from the board.
11. **Gorman** moved and **Frisbie** seconded that we elect **Dr. Cynthia Warwick** to the board of Essence Prep. The motion passed by acclamation.
12. Review of the Mission Statement; **Brown** reminded us that we are looking to change 2 words in the statement. We are adding pre- to kindergarten. We are changing the word student to scholar. It was moved by **Munoz** and seconded by **Kanwai Sumnani Lopez** that we approve the changes in the mission statement as recommended. The motion passed by acclamation. The mission statement now reads...
13. Facilities Report: **Frisbie** reported on the status. We are 80% complete. We are on schedule and within budget. The TXDOT final number is \$311,000 which gives us a little cushion to take care of some other things.
14. **Brown** reported that Teachers will transition to the new facility on 12/15 just before they go on vacation. Movers have been procured to move furniture after 12/15. The first day of school is January 4th. Ribbon cutting is January 20th.
15. The board went into Executive Session at 5:46
16. Returned from Executive Session at 6:30. **Chairman Dillard** read the following statement: No decisions were made or votes taken during closed session.
17. **Moved by Pedraza, seconded by Lucinda Vigil to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.**

Jackie Gorman
Board Secretary