



Essence Preparatory Public School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 21, 2024  
Minutes

<b>The following board members were in attendance:</b>		
Brian Dillard	Mike Frisbie	Henrietta Munoz
Kanwai Sumnani Lopez	George Pedraza	Lucinda Vigil
	Cynthia Warrick	Marques Mitchell
<b>Board members not in attendance:</b>		
Jackie Gorman		
<b>Staff:</b>	Akeem Brown (via zoom)	Jennipha Ricks
	Ikeida Manning	
<b>Guests:</b>		

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

1. **Consent Agenda- Chairman Dillard** requested to pull item 3 of the consent agenda, “Volunteer Chaplin Policy,” for discussion. Items 1, “minutes from the last meeting,” and 2, ratification of an employee separation agreement, were approved as presented.
2. **Volunteer Chaplin Policy -Chairman Dillard** presented information to include background, the mandate from the Texas Education agency to have a policy in place by March 1<sup>st</sup>, and concluded with it was his recommendation along with staff to adopt a resolution regarding Essence Prep’s decision **not** to adopt a volunteer Chaplin policy. The board subsequently approved a motion to approve the presented board resolution #4 by **Henri Munoz** and seconded by **Mike Frisbie**.
3. Superintendent Brown presented a copy of the 990-report shared in the board meeting packet.
  - a. George Pedraza made the motion to accept and adopt the 990 report, and Lucinda Vigil adopted the motion. The board approved and adopted the 990 as presented.
4. **Safety and Security Policy:** The superintendent or a designee will conduct weekly audits; the policy requires the superintendent to report to the board monthly. **BROWN** reported that he conducted an audit the week before the board meeting, and he shared some findings and discussed resolutions. A motion was made by **George Pedraza** and Seconded by **Mike Frisbie** to accept the Access Control Policy.
5. **Investment of Funds Policy:** **Brown** discussed the policy adopted by the board in July of 2021; he shared that while this item is not for action, the discussion about investing NIFA funds to support debt reserve funds for future facility payments. A robust conversation was had, and Superintendent Brown agreed to work to have a call arranged with Marques Mitchell and

George Pedraza, Lucinda Vigil, and Maggie Mirsky from DA Davidson and would bring back thoughts for our March Board Meeting.

6. **BROWN** reported that he shared the Fund Development
7. **Jennipha Ricks, CLO & Principal**, presented the Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) and discussed strategies that are aligned with our 3-year strategic plan and what progress has been made to each bucket.
8. **1882 Partnership Application**, Brown reported that an application would be submitted to SAISD on March 1<sup>st</sup>, submitting a proposal to partner with the ISD to manage an existing campus. Brown committed to sending a draft to the board for review by Feb 29<sup>th</sup>.
9. **Moved by Marques Mitchell, seconded by Mike Frisbie to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm.**

**Jackie Gorman**  
**Board Secretary**