



Essence Preparatory Public School
Board of Directors Meeting
March 20, 2024
Minutes

The following board members were in attendance:		
Brian Dillard	Mike Frisbie	Henrietta Munoz
Kanwai Sumnani Lopez	Jackie Gorman	Lucinda Vigil
Board members not in attendance:		
Cynthia Warrick	George Pedrazza	Marques Mitchell
Staff:		
Dr. J. Murphy	Akeem Brown	I Manning
	S. Clark-Taylor	J. Ricks
Guests:		
	Dahlia Contreras, CEP	

The meeting was called to order at 5:12 PM by **Chairman Brian Dillard**. The meeting was attended by a visitor and staff.

1. **Superintendent Brown** introduced Dr. Jeannie Murphy Director of Advocacy, Sheshawn Clark-Taylor Director of Programs. Dahlia Contreras, CEO City Education Partners. Next field trip will be the annual lunch series with Peter Holt, Jr. He will host 20 scholars for lunch at the Thompson Hotel on the 2nd Wednesday in April.
2. Mission Moment: **Sheshawn Clark-Taylor, Director of Programs** gave a presentation on the “Dinner & A Show” activity where 50 students and parents were taken out to dinner and then to see the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at the Tobin Center. She shared several testimonials from parents and students about the event.
3. Superintendent’s Report: **Brown** email the hard copy of the Superintendent’s Report. **Brown** highlighted the improvement that has been made in organizational health with an increase in cash on-hand to 24 days. Butler-Cohen saved over \$1 Million on construction. Some of those funds will be used to finish out the kitchen and then reimbursed from a pending grant. Mediation will begin with Mobile Modular next week. Mortgage payments will start in December of this year.
4. **Consent Agenda** which included the meeting minutes was approved by acclamation.
5. **Financial Report** – At the end of January we had 181 students as counted by TEA. **Brown** is working with CSS on indicators to get more points. As of today, we have 218 students compared to the 220 we budgeted.
6. **Budget Report** (information only) – **Brown** reminded the board of the 24-25 budget timeline.
 - a. **Budget Planning Kick Off – March**
 - b. **Budgetary Resource Allocations and Program&Result Assessments – April**
 - c. **Board Retreat/Budget Review – May**

d. **Board adopts budget – June**

7. **Foundation Establishment** – Essence Prep Foundation will be established as a stand-alone entity with a MOU between the foundation and EPPS
8. **Board Policy** item is postponed until the next meeting.
9. **Chairman Dillard** appointed **Lucinda Vigil** to the position of Board Treasurer to replace **George Pedraza** who is leaving the board at the end of April. **Vigil** accepted the appointment.
10. **Ms. Ricks** discussed the academic calendar for next year. She discussed two options, 1 with ½ day on Wednesdays and the other with the ½ day on Fridays. Parents and staff will have the opportunity to vote on which calendar works best for them. Both calendars, with the corresponding feedback, will be presented to the board at the April meeting.
11. **Enrollment Overview:** our goal for next year is 562. That’s the max that our organization can currently support. Our floor is 462 which is what we will budget against.
12. **Digital (Marketing) Overview: BROWN** discussed increases in engagement across our various social media channels as well as the strategy moving forward.
13. **Moved by Jackie Gorman and Seconded by Mike Frisbie to adjourn at 6:29 PM. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.**

Jackie Gorman
Board Secretary