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NEW OPPORTUNITIES ORGANIZATION, INC. BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Meeting Location

Family First Charter School
4953 Marine Avenue, Room C4, Lawndale, CA 90260

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

OPEN SESSION AT 6:30 P.M.

(Prepared and distributed: 9/7/2015)

This legislative body conducts business under the meeting requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO RECORD

This meeting will be tape recorded for purposes of recording the minutes. In consideration of others, please turn off all electronic devices before the start of the meeting.

MEETING AGENDA & RELATED MATERIALS

Agendas for regular board meetings as defined by the Brown Act will be posted at the meeting site and the legislative body's website, if applicable, 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas for special meetings as defined by the Brown Act will be posted at the meeting site and the legislative body's website, if applicable, 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Materials relating to an agenda topic that is a matter of public record in open session, will be made available for public inspection 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting, or, alternatively, when the materials are distributed to at least a majority of board members.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.

REASONABLE LIMITATIONS MAY BE PLACED ON PUBLIC TESTIMONY

The Governing Board's presiding officer reserves the right to impose reasonable time limits on public testimony to ensure that the agenda is completed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS MAY BE MADE

Notice is hereby given that, consistent with the requirements of the *Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act*, special presentations not mentioned in the agenda may be made at this meeting. However, any such presentation will be for information only.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY

Pursuant to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting may request assistance by contacting the office of the Executive Director at 4953 Marine Ave., Lawndale, CA 90260, (310) 355-0001, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information concerning this agenda or for materials relating to this meeting, please the office of the Executive Director at 4953 Marine Ave., Lawndale, CA 90260, (310) 355-0001, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** -*President Konig called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.*
 - a. FLAG SALUTE – *President Konig led the flag salute.*
 - b. ROLL CALL – *The President and the Treasurer were there. Member Camberos was absent due to an unforeseen work commitment. This was an excused absence.*
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – *The board approved the agenda with no changes. Salomon Zavala asked clarification of how many members were on the board, the President replied that there were 3 members.*

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Motion: Carrillo
 Second: Konig
 Vote: 2/0

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Konig	X		
Hilliard			
Carrillo	X		
Camberos			Absent

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *There were no public comments at this time.*

4. RESIGNATION OF BOARD SECRETARY – *Mr. Konig wanted to thank Clerk Troy Hilliard for his service to the Organization. Paul Guzman contributed that Mr. Hilliard had been a key member of the board, supporting important issues affecting the operation of both charters.*

Motion: Carrillo
 Second: Konig
 Vote: 2/0

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Konig	X		
Hilliard			
Carrillo	X		
Camberos			Absent

5. BOARD RE-ORGANIZATION – *President Konig appointed member Camberos as the new Board Secretary.*

Motion: Carrillo
 Second: Konig
 Vote: 2/0

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Konig	X		
Hilliard			
Carrillo	X		
Camberos			Absent

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Please note: all matters listed under the consent agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and will be approved/enacted by the Board in one motion. Unless specifically requested by a Board member for further discussion or removed from the agenda, there will be no discussion of these items prior to the Board’s vote on them.

- a. CHECK REGISTER(S): June, July, August 2015
- b. MINUTES: June 4, 2015
- c. Credit Card Usage Report
- d. Approve/Ratify new job titles and salary recommendations, effective September 1, 2015. – *Treasurer Carrillo wanted to know who was affected by this item. Paul Guzman*

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said it applied to the Data Coordinator, whose duties had changed and increased to include CBEDS, CalPADS, and all attendance matters.

- e. MOU between East Los Angeles Employment and Business Center and New Opportunities Charter School.
- f. Approval of Revision to Family First Charter School 2015-16 instructional calendar.
- g. Approval of updated 2015-16 Board Meeting Calendar. – *President Konig asked if there were any changes to the board meeting calendar, Carmen Rosas replied only a notation of the August 13th, meeting being moved to September 10th.*

Motion: Carrillo
 Second: Konig
 Vote: 2/0

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Konig	X		
Hilliard			
Carrillo	X		
Camberos			Absent

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation – EdTec Financial Update – *Chang Patel went over last year’s financials for both charters. Members received a full report of the financial status in their board meeting packets. She started by mentioning that both schools are financially healthy as of 14-15. Chang Patel said we have finally received our property tax funds, and it contributed to both charter’s financial health. Paul Guzman reported on the tedious process that has been having Centinela Valley finally give us this money. Paul Guzman mentioned his appreciation of the Superintendent’s support to having clear accounting, and making it possible for us to receive these funds. President Konig asked for a report of each charter’s reserve. Chang Patel mentioned approximately an estimated 80% for each charter. She offered that charters don’t have to limit themselves to the 5% reserve, like regular school districts, but also that charters don’t have all the protections from traditional districts, nor do they have large amounts of funds being small organizations. Paul Guzman commented he had recently asked Chang Patel how far our reserve will take us, and she had previously said the charters had about a 6 month cushion; today she corrected this forecast to 5 months-if we don’t receive property tax money by December. Paul Guzman further stressed we have asked to receive our funds per the Ed Code schedule, however it is challenging to get the district to do so. Recently we asked for the status of our Special Ed. money, and we accepted Ron Hacker’s offer to estimate and transfer the funds, and truing them up at a later date. This is the best practice, since it will mean we will have if not all, most of the funds in our account, rather than in the district’s funds.*

Chang Patel continued to report on the current school year (15-16). The State approved one time funding, which should be applied to one-time expenses. These are discretionary funds, so they are not restricted. These monies are based on previous year ADA. We are also expecting funds to support Professional Development. All this because the State receiving more money than expected due to capital investments.

Chang Patel finalized her presentation with a budget comparison between the time the board approved the original 14-15 budgets for each charter, and the final budgets. The presentation was thorough and the President and Treasurer had no additional questions.

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Motion: Carrillo
 Second: Konig
 Vote: 2/0

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Konig	X		
Hilliard			
Carrillo	X		
Camberos			Absent

8. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of 2014-15 Unaudited Actuals

Motion: Carrillo
 Second: Konig
 Vote: 2/0

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Konig	X		
Hilliard			
Carrillo	X		
Camberos			Absent

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS – Member Carrillo had no items to report.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Paul Guzman mentioned that this school year started on a

positive note for New Opportunities Charter School. The school still faces the challenges from the student fluctuations inside the jails. East L.A. had a good start, with many students mostly from the community, and also some of the released jail population. Family First Charter School started classes in late August, both at Lawndale and at CRDF. Jeff Hilger mentioned that at CRDF there is a solid 150 ADA, and there is potential for more if we start an Independent Study program. Paul Guzman mentioned there is a good relationship with the Sheriff’s department at CRDF, and they will be increasing our student population. There are plans to hire 2 teachers to meet this demand. Paul Guzman reported on the status of searching for new board members, he has talked with Mary Agnes Erlandson from St. Margaret’s Center, who is already interested in doing volunteer work inside jail facilities. She will take a tour of jail facilities within the next two weeks; and former member Troy Hilliard is looking for someone within the Sheriff’s department. Paul Guzman mentioned his concerns about bringing someone from EBI (Education Based Incarceration), because there would be a conflict of interest due to our Contract with the Sheriff’s. However, someone local, from the community would be ideal, particularly someone like Officer Hilliard who has been involved in education for many years. Paul Guzman will reach out to the SRO at Leuzinger to be a member of the board representing the Sheriff’s department. Salomon Zavala mentioned that it is a requirement that someone from the Sheriff’s department be part of the board.

Paul Guzman talked about the CAHSEE no longer being a requirement for graduation, for the next 3 school years. The California Department of Education suspended it. There will be another test, however CDE does not have the new test ready. He mentioned this is important because our students receive up to 30 credits for passage of the CAHSEE, and we currently have several students that are waiting for the next CAHSEE to receive their diplomas. Administration and Counseling are having discussion to come up with a local alternative test to satisfy this requirement and allow our students to graduate. President Konig wanted to know if this had

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anything to do with the test results recently published by the CDE, however it was clarified that those were the Smarter Balance test results.

Paul Guzman reminded the board we are still looking for a new location for Family First CS, as there are still concerns regarding interactions between adult high school students and comprehensive high school students. Mr. Guzman would like to leave on a good note from the district facilities, rather than as a result of an incident. The main concern has been finding real estate with the same qualities as the current facility, which houses all programs in a single location, and that is well connected to public transportation. The school could move to an office building, however it would be hard to have such large number of students for 6 hours in a location that is not a true school environment. The Centinela Valley superintendent has mentioned in passing, not suggesting we move, but certainly stressing that it would be better for everyone if we move. Paul Guzman mentioned that Centinela Valley decided to keep students 18-22 year old students, and we are not going to make waves about it, we already have a consistent amount of students that prefer our program. We have added a new Computer Repair class, adding to the value of our program.

- 11. ADJOURNMENT** – *Prior to adjournment, the President asked if there were any final comments, to which Salomon Zavala, legal counsel, mentioned details about the Brown Act Training for members of the board. He offered that it will take approximately one hour. President Konig asked if this training could be rescheduled to a time when new board members join the board. Paul Guzman will follow up on the new board members, but for now the Brown Act Training is scheduled for September 23rd. President Konig also requested that Mr. Guzman follow with former member Troy Hilliard regarding his recommendation for a board member from the Sheriff's department.*

Treasurer Carrillo acknowledged a member of the public that wished to speak and the President agreed to allow it. Lesley Cruz introduced herself as one of the Mental Health Counselors for Family First CS. She mentioned that although Mr. Guzman talked about the relationship with the Sheriff's Department, he did not go over their clearance process. She reported that somehow, she is not allowed to work in there, even though she has all types of credentials, Mr. Konig clarified if this meant in the jails, Lesley Cruz said yeah. She continued to say that she cannot work with the inmates, although she was given an initial 60 day clearance. She said that although she is allowed to work with tortured minors as a Licensed Therapist in the State of California, but according to the Sheriff, they have their own subjective criteria, and the reason she mentions this is because in the budget projections she was previously working 5 days a week and in the course of waiting for that clearance, she relocated from Redondo Beach to downtown L.A., and that is quite a lifestyle change and expense of moving there. She is heartbroken because of the MOU between the schools and the Sheriff's, they don't have to disclose why they said no. With that she said she has been drastically impacted going from working 5 days back to 3 days, and being in the observer mode listening how the NOCS portion of the presentation, it is growing and expanding sizzling projects, yet on the Family First portion not sure she is getting much of an update, she pointed to the board agenda saying that is all she gets to see everything at the macro level and debating whether to make comments because there's a board member missing. President Konig asked, if she worked 3 days a week here (referring to Family First CS), Ms. Cruz answered yes. She further said she doesn't hear much about that, all eggs being put in one basket in the jails, that is definitely expanding, but what is growing in this end. Obviously there is a new computer program, and she wonders how she fits, because she was very excited being with the charters for two years, first as a consultant, and she was kind of wondering where she stands long term and the opportunity for growth on this end. She has been patiently waiting on all items, and wonders if her questions were being clarified, not really asking for anything, just putting it out there. President Konig asked if she

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wasn't working in the jails, if there had been anyone else hired. Paul Guzman said no one else has been hired in that position. He contributed that Ms. Cruz's situation was common, and they don't disclose information, they changed their policy for interviewing people. For example, he heard there was a candidate with a completely clean background, and they were denied, and they are not going not to disclose the reasons. They are treating everyone as if they are going to be police officers, and they'll have a background check, but that is just a piece of their own interview process. Paul Guzman offered that there is no way of figuring out their process. There has been an attempt to coach people on what they could possibly be asked at their interview. However if the interviewer senses you lied, they will dig deeper. Our new process is to tell new hires that they will be employed based on the conditions of our Contract with the Sheriff. They allow us a 60-day clearance, to get people in quicker, but we do let them know that if they don't get cleared, you won't be able to work. In Ms. Cruz's case she was able to come back to her previous situation. However the Sheriff's won't budge. Every agency that offers services inside the jails, is subject to this process, Five Keys, John Muir, etc., have also had their new hires not clear. Ms. Cruz said, so the potential board member may not clear, and not get a tour. Mr. Guzman responded, everyone can get a one day clearance, but once you regularly work there, and you are interviewed, that's it. President Konig asked if there was other work that could be given to Ms. Cruz. Mr. Guzman responded that he has talked to Ms. Cruz, that if something came up, she would definitely be considered.

ADJOURNMENT – *President Konig adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.*

Motion: Carrillo

Second: Konig

Vote: 2/0

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Konig	X		
Hilliard			
Carrillo	X		
Camberos			Absent

Next Board Meeting: October 8, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Lulu Camberos, Board Clerk