

Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/21/2020

Time: 5:00pm-7:00pm CST

Location: Virtual Meeting - Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Adam Crawford, Thomas Marino, Lori Kirkpatrick, Florence Jones, Luke Pruett, Jacque Rowe-Fields, Ryan Viner, Reggie Davis, Randall Thomas & Brad Moritz

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Elana Curry & Greg Spillyards

BELIEVE MEMPHIS ACADEMY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Danny Song, Jeff Warren & Jason Baker

GUESTS: Cody Stephenson (EdTec Account Manager), Joy Coates (potential board member), and Jordan M (teacher candidate)

CALL TO ORDER: 5:03, Thomas Marino called meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES: Florence Jones moved to approve August 30, 2020 board retreat minutes. Adam Crawford seconded. All ayes. No nays. Approved.

DISCUSSION:

- Financial and Budget Review – Cody Stephenson and Danny Song
 - Cody with EdTec was introduced to the new board members.
 - Cody presented September financials. Enrollment is at 322 and target was 330. ADM is at 97.6% and target was 95%. Increased enrollment and higher payout than budget has positively affected the financials.
 - Danny shared that the pandemic has given us a chance to make some improvements. We've strengthened relationships between the school and homes.

- Development Committee Report – Luke Pruett and Jason Baker
 - Focus will be on three events including push for monthly board giving, Giving Tuesday and Cocktails for a Cause. Goal for this year is \$750K. The board is responsible for \$250K. Year to date we have raised \$165K of the 250K. \$50K is applied for and \$200K is likely.
 - Jason discussed development strategy. Each board member will receive an email from Jason to push out for monthly giving focus. Reach out to three individuals with high likelihood to give.
 - Moving more to smaller grants – not so much the large foundations writing big checks. Generosity of individuals is at a high level and also with companies.

- Finance Committee Report – Adam Crawford
 - Goals include facilities changeover, annual budget, presenting data and financials in layman's terms and raising our cash reserves. The most important goal is the facility choice.

- Highlight – approved budget at deficit and now operating at a positive position. PPP loan helped our cash position.
- Governance – Thomas Marino
 - The focus will be on recruitment and keeping the board strong.
 - Thomas introduced Joy Coates. Joy helped form the founding team. How can we continue to escalate talent, skill and diversity on the board? Joy brings a strong skillset.
 - Joy shared that she lives in Nashville. What are the action steps and activities I can get involved in? I believe in the leadership. It’s about what is being done for the children in Memphis. It would be an honor to be a part of that.
 - Thomas made a motion to add Joy to the board. Florence seconded the motion. All ayes. No nays. Approve.
 - Danny shared that we will be reading a book together to start a conversation. Our school is 95% black and 5% Latino. We have to be an actively anti-racist organization, and we want the board to lead the way - “live by our values”. The book is I’m Still Here by Austin Channing Brown. Send Danny your address and the book will be delivered to your home. We will discuss the book during our board meetings.
- HOS Report - Danny Song
 - Averaging 60 to 70% attendance right now. When students attend class they learn and show growth. Distributed 85 hot spot devices for a total of 130. This is the way students get to school.
 - We did staff and family re-entry surveys. We have partnered with MAM, Neighborhood Christian Center and Crosstown to fill seats where parents have to go back to work.
 - Discussed a reopening plan. Priorities are public health, parental choice, teacher voice and school district mandate. If we don’t open on Jan. 4, then will consider 3/8. Consider opening a Believe staffed in person learning site. This would increase student access. Talk with community center behind our school to allow for in between support until we return to in person learning. There will be a five phase plan.
 - We did submit an amendment to our Charter in case Northside does not work out. SCS board will vote next Tuesday. We heard from the Charter office that they think we should pull the application because it will lock us into the neighborhood. Will reach out to staff to get clarification on this. If we don’t get clarification, Danny will reach out to legal.
- HOS Support Committee – Jacque Rowe-Fields
 - No report this month.
- Wrap up
 - When we keep the best interests of the students and families in the fore front, we will help our students thrive. We must eliminate barriers!
 - Next board meeting is December 16.

ADJOURNED: 6:54 pm