

Quality Education Academy (QEA)
Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021
Meeting took place via Zoom

Members Present:

Chairman - Dr. Jefferson Caruthers, Jr
CEO - Tonya Bellanger
Ronald Jessup
James Gadson
Adolphus Coplin
Roy Oliphant
Dr. Kendra March

Absent Members:

John Foxworth
Walter Weathers
James Covington

Staff (S) /Parents (P) / Visitors (V)

A. Booth-Horton(S) M. Ross (S) Dr. T. Turner (S) A. Martin (S) S. Rooks (S)

Welcome

The QEA meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. It was determined a quorum of Board Members was present, thus, the meeting continued. The Chairman proceeded by asking if there was anything in tonight's agenda that would present a conflict of interest to any of the attending Board Members. There was no conflict of interest stated by any of the attending Board Members. He also asked Board Members if there would be any additions to tonight's agenda. There were no additions to the agenda. The Chairman provided an opportunity for any of the attending Board Member to give a public comment if he or she had anything pressing to say at this time. There was no comments or statements made. The Chairman called for the reading of our mission, vision and core values statements. These statements were read by CEO Ms. Bellanger.

Review and approval of the June 14th, June 29th, and August 12th Board Meeting Minutes

After the Chairman provided a brief overview of the past three Board Meetings, he asked that Board Members take a moment to review the minutes from June 14, June 29 and August 12, 2021 and then make a motion to accept the minutes into public record.

Mr. Gadson made a motion to receive the June 14, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes into public record with proper correction if there be any and Mr. Oliphant seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously. There were no noted corrections to be made.

Mr. Oliphant made a motion to receive the June 29, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes into public record with proper correction if there be any and Mr. Coplin seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously. There were no noted corrections to be made.

Mr. Coplin made a motion to receive the August 12, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes into public record with proper correction if there be any and Dr. March seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously. There were no noted corrections to be made.

Public Comment

The Chairman gave our visitors an opportunity to make public comments if they had any. There were no public comments.

From the Chairman

The Chairman stated he would like to both acknowledge and commend the CEO and staff on the smooth transition back to in-person learning. He added that he trusts things will continue to go well throughout the remainder of this school year. He assured the CEO and staff that he as well as the Board will continue to support and back the School's vision, mission, and core values as we move forward in the days to come.

Old Business

There is no old business at this time.

New Business

No new business to report.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO addressed the Board in the following areas:

Academic

CEO Ms. Bellanger supplied Board Members with the information and statistics collected from last year's EOG/EOC test scores. As we expected the scores revealed that there is definitely a learning deficient and we have a lot of work that must be done in order to bring scores up to our projective goals. However, Ms. Bellanger assured Board Members that our teaching staff is ready, able and more than willing to take on this challenging, yet achievable task. She also notified Board Members that DPI agreed that this data should not be used in comparison with previous year's scores but should instead serve as an informational piece to parents, educators, and the public in general as to where students' performance lies and to help identify areas where support is needed. The information should also be used to pinpoint the types of resources our scholars need most.

Ms. Bellanger told Board Members Benchmark testing has begun for all grade levels. Beginning of Grade testing for 3rd grade and mClass Reading (the assessment given to grades K-3) have also begun.

QEA did receive approval for the 21st Century Program (Cohort 15) grant. This will enable us to continue our afterschool program for 6th – 9th grade. This program focuses on academic enrichment and STEM/Arts-Based extracurricular activities.

Our EC department received commendations for meeting requirements for IDEA determinations as well as remaining in compliance with indicator 11 (percentage of students who were referred and placement determined within 90 days) with 100% compliance (100% complaint since the 2017 -2018 school year).

Operational

Ms. Bellanger notified Board Members, QEA continues to focus on building cleanliness and maintaining a safe learning environment for all scholars and staff. In addition to building cleanliness, QEA continues with a mask mandate for all scholars as well its staff members.

Ms. Bellanger presented a summary of Senate Bill 654 passed on 8/30/2021. This bill states QEA can choose to use up to 5 remote instructions days or 30 remote instructional hours when school is unable to open due to weather conditions, energy shortage/power failures or emergency situations. Schools may decide to shift to remote instruction as necessary during the school year for Covid-related quarantines/exposures. Charter Schools may offer full-time virtual instruction; however, they must submit a remote learning plan by October 1st. Also, applicants for initial professional license, residency license, lateral entry license or limited license expiring 06/30/21 now have until 12/31/2021 to complete any unmet examination or coursework requirements. Finally, all School Boards must have a board-approved face covering policy and must revisit and vote on this policy at least once a month.

Ms. Bellanger informed Board Members that Fall Sports are currently underway. We have Men's Soccer, Women's Volleyball, and Cross Country Track and Field. We also have Varsity Football. We were unable to generate enough interest for the Middle School Football Team this year.

Enrollment and Staffing

We currently have 631 scholars enrolled and 103 staff members as of August 31st 2021. We have 15 new hires for the 2021 – 2022 School year.

Financial

Ms. Bellanger reviewed the Financial Report for July 2021. She also informed Board Members that the PPP Loan Forgiveness Application was approved on 06/28/2021 and presented a proposed budget for the 2021 – 2022 School year. Ms. Bellanger gave Board Members an opportunity to ask questions about the budget or the finance report.

The Chairman stated at some point he would like to have a presentation that would clearly communicate and explain the different codes used in the finance reports. He would like to form a committee that looks over the budget and lease/rental contracts.

Governance Policies

There were no policies to update at this time

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the Board-approved face covering policy and noted it must be revisited and voted on at least once a month. Mr. Gadson made a motion to accept the mask mandate with the note that it must be revisited and voted on at least once a month. Mr. Oliphant seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman called for a motion to accept the CEO's report and the finance report. Mr. Oliphant made a motion to receive the CEO's report and the finance report. Mr. Jessup seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman recommended the Board meet on the 4th Saturday next month for the Annual Board Retreat. The Board agreed to meet on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to be on the committee for budget and lease/rental contract reviews. Board Members selected were as follows:

- CEO. Ms. Bellanger
- Chairman, Dr. Caruthers
- Mr. Oliphant
- Mr. Coplin
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The Chairman called for a motion to accept the Annual Board Retreat date and time as well as the formation of a committee to review the budget and lease/rental contracts. Mr. Gadson made a motion to accept the Annual Board Retreat which is currently set for Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 9:00 am, and also to accept the committee composed of CEO, Ms. Bellanger, Chairman, Dr. Caruthers, Mr. Oliphant, and Mr. Coplin for reviewing the budget and lease/rental contracts. Mr. Jessup seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Oliphant made a motion to adjourn and Dr. March seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the roll method. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Announcement

The next Quality Education Academy Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM**. A notification to all Board Members will be sent prior to the scheduled meeting. A copy of the previous month's minutes will be emailed to all Board Members in addition to the meeting notification.

Minutes recorded by **S. Adams**