

**Quality Education Academy (QEA)  
Board Meeting Minutes  
October 11, 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  
Walter Weathers  
James Covington

**Absent Members:**

John Foxworth

**Parents (P) / Visitor (S)**

L. Robinson (P)                      T. Livingston (P)                      K. Covington (V)

**Welcome**

The QEA meeting was called to order at 6:01 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 called for the reading of our mission, vision, and core values statements. These statements were read by the CEO Ms. Bellanger.

**Review and approval of the September 13, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

The Chairman gave Board members an opportunity to review the Board Meeting Minutes from the previous September 13, 2021 Board Meeting and then called for a motion to receive the minutes into the public record. Mr. Gadson made a motion to receive the September 13, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes into public record with proper correction if any is needed. Mr. Oliphant seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments**

We received a public comment from Ms. Kelly Covington, who wanted to express her gratitude to CEO Ms. Bellanger and the staff for their continued work efforts throughout this Pandemic period. She stated she appreciates QEA's use of Social Media and all public platforms QEA has used to communicate with the community about the events taking place at the school. Ms. Covington also extended her thanks to the Board for their support of the school and Ms. Bellanger.

Ms. Linda Robinson, one of our scholar parents, also provided a comment. Ms. Robinson said her son has attended both QEI and QEA. Ms. Robinson loves QEA very much and is one of our biggest advocates, however, she stated she would like to see QEA improve communication with the parents and community.

## **From the Chairman**

The Chairman said he would like to thank the CEO and staff for their continued efforts and dedication to the school and scholars. He reassured Ms. Bellanger that he, as well as the other Board Members, are available to support and assist in any way possible to ensure that QEA remains one of the area's top Schools of Choice.

## **Old Business**

The Chairman informed Board members that the committee for budget and lease/rental contracts have not been able to meet due to several unforeseen events. They are currently looking to reschedule their meeting so they can move forward with the review of the budget and lease/rental contracts.

The Chairman called for other old business. Mr. Gadson stated the Board needs to vote on the monthly mask mandate as required by the State. Ms. Bellanger recommended to the Board that QEA continues with the mask mandate as previously approved. We are still requiring both staff and scholars to wear masks at all times when they are inside the buildings. Everyone must also practice sanitizing, hand washing, and maintaining a safe distance. Mr. Gadson made a motion to approve the mask mandate that we currently have in place. Dr. March seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

No new business to report.

## **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

The CEO addressed the Board in the following areas:

### **Academic**

Ms. Bellanger supplied Board Members with a copy of the 2020 -2021 EOG and EOC Testing Cohort detailed data. This information was carried over from the previous September 13, 2021 Board Meeting. The data shared with Board Members presented them more insight as to the number of scholars who were being tested, and the number of scholars who did not participate in testing. It also identified the sex (male/female) of the scholar who was being tested and the percent of those proficient in the subject that was being tested.

Ms. Bellanger informed Board Members Benchmark testing and NC Check-Ins -1 will be completed by the end of this week (Friday, October 15, 2021). Our 1<sup>st</sup> quarter ends on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and report cards will be distributed on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Operational**

Ms. Bellanger notified Board Members that QEA will celebrate Culture Day on Friday, October 15, 2021. There will be lots of fun, food, and festivities for all. However, Mrs. Bellanger let Board Members know that although the goal is to celebrate the different cultures and have lots of fun, we must still be safe and practice all safety precautions. Each school will celebrate at its own individual campus in order to minimize the size of the crowd. The event will be limited to two hours (12:00 pm – 2:00 pm) instead of the entire day as it has been in the past. Fall Intersession will take place Monday, October 18, 2021 – Friday, October 22, 2021. There will be a Teacher Workday on Monday, October 25, 2021, and the Annual Board Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2021 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm). The Men's Soccer and Women's Volleyball seasons are coming to an end. The conference play starts next week October 18, 2021. Unfortunately, this year we were unable to play a

Football game. The team was able to practice together and bond with each other, however, several of the teams we were scheduled to play had to cancel due to COVID.

### **Enrollment**

QEA currently has a total of 631 students enrolled. We have had 7 students transfer out and 7 new enrollees.

### **Staff**

QEA has a staff count of 103. We have 15 new hires. There were 4 additions in K-5<sup>th</sup>, 3 additions in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 additions in 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>, 5 additions in Support Staff Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup>, and 1 addition in the Business office.

### **Financial**

Ms. Bellanger reviewed the Financial Report for August 2021. She also informed Board Members that the budgets have been approved for the ESSER I, II and NCACCESS.

The Chairman had the Board Members look over the proposed budget for the 2021 – 2022 School year. He then called for a motion to approve the budget with the understanding that the budget will require further review at a later date. Mr. Coplin made a motion to approve the proposed budget for the 2021 -2022 School Year and Mr. Gadson seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

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

### **Governance Policies**

There were no policies to update at this time.

### **Announcement**

The Chairman reminded Board Members of the Annual Board Retreat on Saturday, October 23, 2021 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm). The Retreat will be in-person and location will be provided by the CEO prior to the meeting date. Mr. Covington made everyone aware that he will not be able to attend the retreat.

The next Quality Education Academy Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 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.

### **Adjournment**

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Weathers made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Oliphant seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the raise-hand method. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.