

**Quality Education Academy (QEA)**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 19, 2022**  
**Meeting took place via Zoom**

**Members Present:**

Chairman Dr. Jefferson Caruthers  
CEO Tonya Bellanger  
John Foxworth  
James Gadson  
Adolphus Coplin  
Roy Oliphant  
Walter Weathers  
James Covington  
Dr. Kendra March  
Ronald Jessup

**Absent Members:**

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

T. Turner (S) T. Piper (S) A. Booth-Horton (S)

**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 will be two action items included in tonight's discussion under the New Business topic and the Board will go into a closed session regarding a personnel matter following the CEO's report. The Chairman called for the reading of our mission, vision, and core values statements. These statements were read by Ms. Bellanger.

**Review and approval of March 14, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

The Chairman gave Board members an opportunity to review the Board Meeting Minutes from the previous March 14, 2022 Board Meeting. He then called for a motion to receive the minutes into the public record. Mr. Gadson made a motion to receive the March 14, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes into public record with proper correction if any is needed. Mr. Coplin seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously. There were no stated corrections to be made.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**From the Chairman**

The Chairman stated he would like to applaud the CEO, staff, and all who have continued to work so unwaveringly during this school year. He added he is very optimistic things will continue to run smoothly as we quickly approach the year-end of another school term.

## **Old Business**

There is no old business to discuss.

## **New Business**

CEO Ms. Bellanger informed Board Members that she enclosed a Mask-Optional COVID-19 Policy for the Board's review and consideration. Ms. Bellanger reviewed newly published data regarding positive case counts and hospitalizations related to Covid. Ms. Bellanger also shared with Board Members that currently, the school is providing more masks on a daily basis as scholars are being dropped off without masks. Lastly Ms. Bellanger noted that QEA has had no reported covid cases of on-campus within the past two months. Ms. Bellanger stated she would be willing to support the mask-optional policy where students and staff will be permitted to decide whether to wear a mask or not. The Chairman opened the floor for discussion. Each Board Member was given the opportunity to state their opinion as to whether they felt it was better to continue with the mask mandate (masks are required) or the mask-optional policy. After a brief discussion, the Chairman called for a motion on the Board's decision regarding the mask policy. Mr. Coplin made a motion to accept the mask-optional policy as presented. Mr. Foxworth seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman said the next action item on the agenda is the 2022-2023 School Calendar. Once all Board Members had a chance to look over the proposed 2022-2023 School Calendar, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the Calendar. Mr. Oliphant made a motion to approve the proposed 2022-2023 School Calendar and Dr. March seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll-call method. The motion carried unanimously.

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

The CEO addressed the Board in the following areas:

### **Academic**

Ms. Bellanger notified Board Members that prior to Spring Break, the middle school completed simulations of the EOG test and the 11th-grade scholars completed the ACT on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Elementary School Scholars completed a school-wide Spelling Bee and will also compete in WSSU's Math Competition on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The final round of Check-ins will take place the last week of April. Ms. Bellanger reminded Board Members that there are 23 more Instructional days before EOG/EOC" and she concluded by announcing that QEA had our first High School scholar to pass the Drone Pilot Exam to become a licensed drone pilot.

### **Operational**

Scholars and Staff have just returned from a much needed Spring Intersession (Friday, April 8, 2022 – Friday, April 15, 2022)  
May 28<sup>th</sup> High School Graduation

### **Enrollment**

As of March 31, 2022, QEA has an enrollment of 596 Scholars. We have had a total of 65 students transfer out and a total of 30 new enrollees.

QEA has a total of 473 scholars who have currently confirmed re-enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year. There are 136 new applications. The School Lottery was held on Thursday, April 7, 2022 for new applicants.

### **Staff**

QEA staff count remains at 104 as of March 31, 2022. Currently we have 5 positions open for the 2022–2023 School year (4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science, 9 -12 Math).

### **Financial**

Ms. Bellanger reviewed the Financial Report for February 2022.

### **Governance Policies**

Ms. Bellanger informed Board Members that the Consolidated Program Monitoring went well. She added the official report should arrive within the next couple of weeks.

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

### **Closed Session**

At 6:32 pm, the Board went into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter regarding the renewal of the Chief Executive Officer's contract.

### **Return to Open Session**

The Board returned from Closed Session at 6:55 pm. During the closed session, the Board voted 7-1 not to renew the contract of the current Chief Executive Officer. The current contract term ends on June 30, 2022. After Board Members and Ms. Bellanger were allowed time to make comments, Chairman Caruthers indicated further discussions would take place with a Transition Team consisting of Board Member A. Coplin and Board Member R. Jessup. A request was made to convene an emergency staff meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 so that the Chairman and Transition Team could notify the staff of the decision regarding a change in school leadership.

### **Adjournment**

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Foxworth made a motion to adjourn and Dr. March seconded. The vote was put through using the roll-call method. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

### **Announcement**

The next Quality Education Academy Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2022 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