



East Point Academy Public Charter School
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2018

Board Members in Attendance: Mrs. Joan Hoffman, Mrs. Lora Prill, Mrs. Lisa Cole, Ms. Vanessa Mota, Dr. Mieke Perez, Dr. Kevin Lu, Mr. Jimmie Chao

Others in Attendance: Mr. Mark Bounds, Ms. Dwede Dennis, Ms. Toneka Green, Ms. Junlan Li

1.0 Public Notification

Meeting notices and agendas were posted at the front office of the EPA Elementary School, EPA website, and communication site, Bloomz.

2.0 Call to Order General Session

Mrs. Joan Hoffman called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

3.0 Consent Agenda

The Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda and STU 110 (Student Grievance Policy).

Executive Session

There was no action reported from Executive Session.

4.0 Public Input

There was no public input.

Strategic Plan

Tim Lyons, Partner at Mauldin Jenkins accounting firm, presented the audited financial report to the Board. The Board unanimously voted to approve the document.

Mr. Bounds reported to the Board that disability insurance is cost prohibitive. At the November meeting, the Board had asked Mr. Bounds and Mr. Hart to explore disability insurance options.

Mrs. Lisa Cole made the following statement for the record: “I am deeply disappointed that the intent of the Disability discussion--consideration of paid maternity/paternity leave--was not clearly noted on our public notification. This would have given our employees and parents opportunity to weigh in. And even further disappointed that the topic was skimmed over and no numbers were offered to the Board - even though we requested insight into how paid maternity/paternity leave benefits would affect us financially and comparisons to surrounding districts at the November 15 Board meeting. The U.S. is one of the few modern countries without federally mandated paid parental leave. Many states and corporations have now taken a stance and begun to offer it. The world is trending this way. As established leaders in the field of education we must show we’ve given deep consideration to this very specific topic, even if we are unable to provide at this time. And I feel we failed at doing that in a clear, transparent manner. We all care deeply about the lives of those we serve, so our public actions as a Board must intentionally and continually reflect that care.” Joan Hoffman noted that the intent of reviewing disability was to consider the benefit to all employees in addition to those on maternity leave. Mr. Bounds was asked to present his cost findings at the next board meeting.

Mr. Bounds discussed the release of \$5 million in funds from a construction loan with West Town Bank to pay remaining construction invoices. This loan was obtained with the original USDA loan, but had remain undistributed. The Board unanimously voted to approve the release of the funds.

Head of School Report

Mr. Bounds reviewed the construction punch list items. Many tasks are still in progress and some projects, including the installation of sidewalks at the elementary campus, are scheduled to be worked on over the winter break.

Mr. Bounds gave updates on the following:

- Digital sign location for Middle Campus
- Bowtie Club
- Chinese New Year Celebration
- Annual Fund (raised over \$27,000)
- WiFi bandwidth improvement

Mr. Bounds reported that enrollment was at 650 students. He also presented the Board with a new “Dashboard” report, a document showing key indicators at a glance, such as social media statistics, enrollment, behavioral report and more.

Mr. Bounds and the Board discussed the elementary school’s “Below Average” rating from the South Carolina Department of Education. A letter will be sent home to parents explaining the rating, which used incorrect data. Dr. Green and Mr. Bounds will also appeal to the SCDE, along with other schools around the state, who do not agree with the methodology used.

The following policies (STU 001-111) will be reviewed at the next board meeting. Several board members discussed the language in and process supporting policy STU 108 (Student Dress Code). Mr. Bounds assured the Board that the policy is to simply have a set standard in place.

Mr. Chao encouraged Mr. Bounds to consider establishing a Student Government Association. Mr. Bounds noted that one existed in the past, but it did not currently have a staff sponsor.

Next Meeting

East Point Academy's Board of Directors next regularly scheduled meeting is on January 24, 2018.

Adjournment

Mrs. Joan Hoffman called for a motion to adjourn at 8:05p.m.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Created: December 18, 2018

Amended: