



**East Point Academy Public Charter School
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes**

November 25, 2013

The East Point Academy (EPA) Board of Directors convened in the cafeteria at the EPA Elementary School at 5:45 P.M. on Monday, November 25, 2013.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chair Dr. Xian Wu, Treasurer Dr. Edward Davis, Officer-At-Large Mrs. Beth Richardson, Dr. Ling Gao, Mrs. Susan Kuo, and Director/Founding Principal Mrs. Renee Mathews

1.0 CALL TO ORDER GENERAL SESSION

Dr. Wu called the meeting to order. Mrs. Richardson agreed to take meeting minutes in Mrs. Zummach Powers' absence.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Wu called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Davis made a motion to add Director Mathews' report after the scheduled presentation due to an emergency situation.

MOTION	<u>Davis</u>	SECOND	<u>Kuo</u>
ACTION	<u>Approved Unanimously</u>		

3.0 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Dr. Wu noted that the special meeting has been noticed timely and properly, both physically at the school and on the school website.

4.0 PUBLIC INPUT

Invited Attendance List

- Dr. W. Darrell Barringer, State Director for SC for AdvancED School Accreditation

5.0 ADVANCED SCHOOL ACCREDITATION PRESENTATION

Dr. Barringer introduced himself as the State Director for SC for AdvancED School Accreditation. Previously, he was at Lexington 1 for 37 Years as teacher and principal, and knows Director Mathews well. For SC AdvancED, he travels nationally and internationally to accredit schools.

Presentation provided by slides regarding accreditation program:

Accrediting in 72 Countries; Largest accreditation organization; 1400 or so public schools in SC are all accredited by AdvancED; only 81 public schools not accredited in SC.

After the presentation, the Board asked a variety of questions to which the following

answers were provided regarding the accreditation process:

1. Accreditation is based on quality of teachers not Department of Education standards for assessing quality of teachers.
2. The nuances of the results of the accreditation assessment are confidential.
3. Evaluators chosen are chosen in a manner tailored to the uniqueness of the school. For example, at last visit in Abu Dabi, there were five people each with over 20 years' experience in education. All volunteers.
4. Costs \$650.00 a year.
5. First, school conducts a self study to determine readiness, then provided school is ready, then the independent evaluation follows, and the resulting report provides for the school to act and respond within two years.
6. Other expenses include cost for evaluation team to come, hotel, mileage, and meals every five years.
7. Benefits of accreditation: Develop well-informed strategic plan; get faculty together and own the plan and investment in school.
8. Dr. Barringer will come personally to perform readiness assessment and lead EPA down the way.
9. Dr. Brazell wants all charter schools to do this accreditation.

6:40pm Dr. Barringer leaves meeting. Board determines that it should discuss the accreditation matter in more depth in January.

6.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 6.1 There was a water main break at 6:45am. Director determined in best interest of school community to keep school open. Lexington 2 closed but we have people who drive a long ways to come here. Message from Director was bring the 3 and 4 year old students if you do not have sitters, otherwise, stay home. Director Mathews stayed at Primary School until 8:30am. At East Point Elementary, all 5k held class on bottom floor and loved the novelty of the hall bathrooms. Everything went well. 9pm tonight water department will call school to let us know if the water main break is fixed. Either way, EPA is ready for 3k-5k tomorrow.
- 6.2 Chinese teacher H1B visa who we reduced to too few hours to keep needs a new job to stay in USA. New hiring school does not want to handle immigration issues and, instead, wants to pay us for Chinese employee as a contracted employee.

Mrs. Mathews noted need to settle this issue soon but alerted board to concerns about potential EPA liability for teacher's negligence at new school.

Board expressed similar concerns about contract employee arrangement and asked Mrs. Mathews to gather legal opinion about contracting away such negligence. Attorney's charge should be charged to school asking for such special request.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.