

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FIAFW, INC.
SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGH POINT ACADEMY – FORT WORTH

February 23, 2021 / 7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the above referenced corporation was held on February 23, 2021 by video conference/teleconference in accordance with Governor Abbott's temporary suspension of Open Meeting Laws. Meeting was called to order by President Connie Barnett at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Connie Barnett, Pam Hartwell, Nate Starmer, Jaye Sanford, B.K. Myles

QUORUM PRESENT:

Yes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Katie P. Stellar, Dana Yates, Jana Tennyson, Allyson Solymosy, Heather Houpt, Craig Shreckengast, Karen Emery.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No

RECEIVE AND APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

Approved minutes - January 19, 2021 and January 26, 2021 - Motion made by Pam Hartwell, 2nd by Jaye Sanford

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Updates and Discussion of the following:

RECOGNITIONS:

No Recognitions at this meeting.

REPORTS:

Heather Houpt – Sixth graders have been working on a living wax museum for Black History Month.

Unfortunately, with the last week not being in school, it put us behind schedule. They will be doing their presentations on March 11th. We will be videoing it for parents to see since they cannot come on campus and we will allow the different grade levels to go by and see the different figures that they have been working on. Some of those sixth graders have chosen to do reports on African Americans that are deaf, and their entire presentation is going to be in sign language. That same week, we are working on putting together a virtual open house, to show some of the amazing things that are going on in the classrooms. We have set kindergarten graduation; it will be an outside event. We plan to have a field day in May, also outside. We are working out all of the details in order to make sure everybody's safe and we do not spread any viruses or anything. On the website, we have a video tour. I want to say a special thanks to Lauren Gehle. She is our piano teacher, but she is awesome with videos. She put the whole video together with music. Micaela Massacci heads up our student leadership and has two of the students leading the tour. Normally in January, we start opening the building up for tours for our prospective families to come in. With Covid, we haven't been able to do that. We are trying different ways to make sure people in the community and around know who we are, and some of the things that set us apart from other schools in the area.

· **Allyson Solymosy** – We finished all of our benchmarking. We ran it like a mock STAAR, we had about 40 to 45% of our distance learners come in. It was set up so that they were always in a separate room from our

in-person learners, and we staggered the times that they came in and left so that they were completely separate. We are still going over some of the numbers, we went back to compare the math, science, and writing, depending on the grade level, to the TEKs that had not been taught yet and also the ELA TEKs that have new versions, to really see where the students are. Overall, considering how far we know these kids are behind, it's not as bad as I think we were all thinking it would be. The science benchmark didn't get to finish because we had to switch to distance learning. Andrew Morales has been working on our video tour and is working to finish up the editing to get it on the website. We are looking at our intent to return numbers and factoring in that Craig will be gaining my sixth graders, it's not too bad. We are doing Read Across America next week. Fourth grade, for Black History Month, made mobiles that are hanging down the entire fourth grade hallway. I will try to get some pictures and get them put up on our Instagram, Facebook, and the website as well. Our field day plan is all squared away, thanks to Whitney Holder.

- **Craig Shreckengast** – Last year our graphic arts created alphabet calendars and coloring books. They took those over to Ronald McDonald House. This year they created Echo the Eagle alphabet posters with Echo traveling around the world and each letter is a different country. They created coloring books that combine a language arts project containing facts to go along with the coloring pages. As a community service project, we collected crayons and markers and then took some students over to Ronald McDonald House to the kids there. Graphic arts is also working on our video tour and it will be finished up in this week as well and posted on the website. At this point we have 100% of our graduating class accepted to either a two-year, four year, or trade school. Mrs. Garza has done a great job with our kids getting applications done and all that and getting them through the process.
- **Dana Yates** – Next week we will have our lottery. As of four o'clock today, we have 355 applications total, across all campuses. We have 1414 students that have stated they are returning. Campus 001 and 003 have made contact with everyone. Campus 002 has a few still undecided that have until tomorrow at four to return phone calls. For the most part, we know we have 1414 students returning, 116 students across the district are not returning, which isn't a bad number. We are having to change our lottery up this year. We've always hosted it so that people could come in and watch. We have always had a fun time using the bingo balls and all, but it's really more for fun and show. Everything is electronic, so with a push of a button the lottery is done all at once. We will run the lottery at 6 p.m., just like we always do. Emails and texts will go out immediately following. By 6:30 everyone will receive a text or email depending on what they signed up for, stating whether they have been accepted or whether they have been waitlisted. We are going to put something on our website and on our Facebook page letting parents know they can log into their SchoolMint account to see what their status is and sign up for email and text to be contacted.
- **Katie Stellar** – As we know, there is some construction going on at the 8300 W. Freeway campus, the construction company has called that our phase 1b. That phase will hopefully be completed by the end of spring break. They anticipated being finished by the start of spring break, because of the snow, it's been pushed back. That construction phase has created three new offices, a choir room, an art room with a sink that is in the room, and a restroom in the nurse's office. They are trying to finalize the plans for placement of the modulares. The board had the opportunity to give voice to what their preferences were in terms of placement, they tried to honor that as best they could. The property has proven to be challenging, because there is a slope from the south west corner to the northeast corner. I believe there is an elevation change of over seven feet as the water flows downhill. There will need to be some removal of asphalt, building up the ground underneath, and fortifying in order to build these pads for the mods to be set on. I sent an email to them yesterday , showing what type of fencing I'd like for us to explore as a first option, similar to what IDEA has in front of their schools, which appears to be an iron look, with posts that appear to be metal for the perimeter. Then any recreational area that we would have outside, we feel like that should probably have a chain link type fence that's probably vinyl coated around that perimeter, so that if students are playing ball, it won't get loose and roll downhill. Once they finalized where that placement will be, I'll be certain to share that with you all. It's very similar to what the board thought would work best for us. In terms of next year, we haven't gotten a lot of guidance from TEA, as far as what next year is going to look like. Our leadership team feels that in-person is the way to go, but we know that distance learning is still a possibility. We have a good creative team that's going to try to find a way to alleviate some of the stresses for the teachers, in possibility of doing both. We are looking toward planning. We've had some conversations about summer camps, to focus particular on the ELAR, the reading and the math, for our younger kids to try to remediate some of these gaps that have been created by just the change in the way we're doing education, with the virtual distance learning and things like that. We are going to put together a team to discuss some creative ways to address that, hopefully, with summer camps during the month of June. I think we're going to work diligently to try to actually shut the school down for three weeks in July, we have that on the calendar every year. This past summer, that didn't happen.

Craig's middle/high school has a musical coming up toward the end of March and we are really hoping that we will be able to use our auditorium for that. We had a sound company come in and give us an estimate on what

it would cost to get the equipment necessary to drive the sound, all of the wiring is in place. John Albright, our IT Director for the Chartered District, is going to do some research on equipment as well, to see what kind of comparable pricing, hopefully better pricing than what we could get from the sound people for comparable equipment. We've had the challenges of weather last week, as soon as I put out that we wouldn't be in school due to the boil water notice, White Settlement decided to remove the notice. It did allow us the opportunity to flush the plumbing lines, the faucets, clean out the icemaker, do all those things to ensure that there wasn't any bacteria leftover from the plumbing issues that the city had. We have a first-grade position to fill at our 8300 West Freeway campus. We have been interviewing, working to get someone permanent for that. We are preparing to start the process that will lead to bonding out in order for us to purchase the properties. We were referred to a company called Truist by our insurance brokers. Jana and I had an opportunity to meet with a man named Rob Nickel, who is willing to work with us through the process. I ask the board to look at the agreement letter that I have emailed to you all. I have received an email from our attorneys about a March 18th hearing with the Tarrant Appraisal District. We have discussed how we're protesting our taxes. We have continued to pay them, but we are protesting because we are a 501c3 nonprofit, and we shouldn't have to pay taxes on the school property. Our attorneys will be handling that hearing and they asked that I be present too. We will see how that goes and what the Appraisal District will decide. Tarrant Appraisal District is one of the most difficult appraisal districts to get this exemption within the state of Texas.

- **Karen Emery** – presented Financial Report - Motion made by Jaye Sanford, 2nd by B.K. Myles (Unanimously Approved).

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

The following Corporate Actions were taken by appropriate motions duly made, seconded, and adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors entitled to vote (unless a higher voting approval is stated)

- a) Non-Expansion Amendment - amend wording - Motion made by Pam Hartwell, 2nd by Jaye Sanford (Unanimously Approved).
- b) Waivers - Missed School Day Waiver & Other Waiver:
Missed School Day Waiver - Motion made by B.K. Myles, 2nd by Jaye Sanford (Unanimously Approved).
Other Waiver - Motion made by Pam Hartwell, 2nd by Jaye Sanford (Unanimously Approved).
- c) Approval of 2021-2022 School Calendar - Motion made by Jaye Sanford, 2nd by B.K. Myles (Unanimously Approved).
- d) Board Resolution Authorizing Employee Pay- Motion made by Pam Hartwell, 2nd by Jaye Sanford (Unanimously Approved).
- e) Truist Securities Engagement Letter
- f) Executive Session (Personnel/Financial)– Motion made to enter executive session at 8:26 p.m. by Nate Starmer, 2nd by Pam Hartwell (Unanimously Approved).
- g) Reconvene from Executive Session/Vote on items discussed in Executive Session
- h) Request(s) by Board Member(s) for item(s) to be placed on agenda for next board meeting
Vote on Executive Session items –
 - Item #1 (e)- Truist Securities Engagement Letter (Pending attorney approval) - Motion made by Nate Starmer, 2nd by Pam Hartwell (Unanimously Approved).

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn made by B.K. Myles, 2nd by Jaye Sanford (Unanimously Approved).

Adjournment Approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Minutes submitted and certified by President Connie Barnett.



Connie Barnett, Board President