

MINUTES OF THE

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FIAFW, INC.

SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGH POINT ACADEMY – FORT WORTH

May 18, 2021 / 7:00 PM

A called meeting of the Board of Directors of the above referenced corporation was held on May 18, 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 7:06 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Connie Barnett, Jaye Sanford, Pam Hartwell

QUORUM PRESENT:

Yes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Katie P. Stellar, Jana Tennyson, Dana Yates, Allyson Solymosy, Heather Houpt, Alisha Yeager, Katherine Kinsler, Michelle Noskin, Andrew Morales, Denise Pierce, Jennifer Knight, Joe Joyce, LeAwna Springer, Lindy Ylanan, Madison Fuentes, Mandy Martin, Mark Taylor, Meg Sanks, Melody Armstrong, Michelle Noskin, Rebecca James, Robin, Sunny Myles, Sacha Spoonemoore

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- **Connie Barnett** read allowed Nate Starmer's resignation letter.
- **Meg Sanks** - I'm greatly concerned about the condition of our school, the elementary in particular. Many families and staff will be leaving due to these same concerns. I'll address one today. In August Mrs. Stellar and Mrs. Houpt were kind enough to let me walk through the newly leased space after offering my professional services as a licensed interior designer and expertise in commercial spaces. After discussing the layout and plans that were already thought through, I shared with them that the first thing that needs to be done is put a fence around the property to make families feel safe with their kids being there. Parents had started emailing concerns about the location and the Facebook post blew up with negativity. To my surprise my statement was met with puzzled faces. I have continued to ask Mrs. Stellar about the fence either in person or through email throughout the year. My youngest is in kindergarten at the new campus. She comes home to tell me that she can't go outside to play because a dog is in the parking lot. I hear from credible sources that people walk through the parking lot at various times during the school day, coming from a hotel next door and the access road. I've also been told about an incident where a man walked through with an open carry. I witnessed for myself, a man and his dog walk straight through the pickup line at the front of the building as the children were being let out. I emailed Miss stellar immediately and she informed me that the fence will be one of the last items completed. A security guard was hired but is no longer there. And one of the AP's was out ill for some time. All of these things are unpredictable because we are human, but a fence is a solid non-human structure that puts a physical barrier to keep our children safe. After reading Mrs. Stellar's email Sunday about all the reasons why it's just not a top priority, many feel unheard, just as so many other families I've talked to that also feel the same. I agree that a price tag has been set on our children's and the staff's safety. To top it off, I drove up to pick up at the main campus one day and there was a shiny new golf cart with plastic still on the seats. And then I found out that there's not just one, but there's three that have been purchased. We can spend money on golf carts, no matter where that money comes from, but not a

fence around the property. None of the reasons to delay the fence make sense to me and do not make me feel that our children's safety is a top priority, like all the emails have said. This is the first time in six years we are considering pulling our children from High Point. I really hope you all are hearing me, and action will be taken. There are solutions, they just need to be acted on, and I'm happy to talk to anyone at any point about my concerns. Thank you for your time.

RECEIVE AND APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

Approved minutes - April 20, 2021 - Motion made by Pam Hartwell, 2nd by Jaye Sanford (Unanimously Approved).

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Updates and Discussion of the following:

RECOGNITIONS:

None

REPORTS:

- **Heather Houpt** – Tomorrow we have our kindergarten round up. We're super excited to meet some of our new kindergarten families and have them come in during the day and evening tomorrow. Tuesday, we have our awards for our in-person learners. We are doing a drive thru pickup at the campus and everybody's coming on to drive thru and get their awards and take pictures and stuff. We have field day on Wednesday. The last day of school, we will give out our distance awards. Those students who have been distance learning all year will come up and do a drive thru awards ceremony as well. We finished with the major testing stuff today. This week, we should get most of our reading and writing scores for the elementary. It's really cool now with the online testing to be able to get results so quickly. We'll be able to get in there with the SSI stuff for fifth grade. And then we've also got summer camps planned for K through four. There's a lot happening right here at the end. I think we're going to finish strong and look forward to next year.
- **Allyson Solymosy** – We finished up all of our in-person star testing last week and then fifth grade finished up their science today. Our distance learners have done their science and starting tomorrow and Thursday, they will take care of their reading and their math over at the 8300 campus. We have our kindergarten and first graders working distance. We appreciate all the extra effort parents and teachers are putting into that so that our distance learners can have a safe place to be with all the COVID protocols. We're hoping to get some star results starting tomorrow. We had our kindergarten round up. We had one tonight and we have a second one on Thursday. We have all of the plans in place for next week. We have Field Day both for sunny and rainy-day contingency plans. We have our last day special things happening, awards, devices turn in. The sixth graders were just such an incredible group this year. If you remember, they collected food cans earlier this year. They have started a kindness campaign this year where we've got posters around our campus, they've painted rocks and left them around for students to find, to leave positive messages. And then the student gets to hide it somewhere else for the next person to find. They've collected comfort bears for children. They initially wanted to take them to Cook Children's but found that they had to be new. I think they're probably going to try to use these with the fire department or CPS, something like that. I just wanted to give a shout out to Ms. Coker, who's worked so hard to put those things in place and kind of work on the social emotional aspects with our sixth graders this year because it's been tough. Tonight is my final board meeting and so I just wanted to say how much I have truly loved that campus and how much I appreciate the opportunity to come and learn. It was kind of a crazy year and a half, but it

has been fun and challenging. And I just want to tell you guys what an amazing staff and group of families and kids you have there. I'm going to miss them tremendously.

- **Dana Yates** – We opened up our new student and returning student registration on Monday. Our current numbers as far as enrollment, we currently have 1521 students. Our projected enrollment for next year is 1650. We're not quite sure what the middle school and high school numbers will be, they're still working on courses and exactly how many students they can take in so that number could go up. For the fifth, six weeks, our attendance increased to 96.18%. I contribute that to the principals and our attendance clerks really getting on the meetings and hearings and reaching out to the students.
- **Katie Stellar** – Allyson, I just want to take a moment to say that, when we were facing hiring a principal, I really wanted someone who had charter school experience. And I think I've told you from day one, that I believe that you were meant to be a part of High Point and I've appreciated the time that you've been here. I'll certainly miss your presence among us. But I know that you're going to go on to do great things. We're in the homestretch now with a couple of weeks left. And I think many, if not all of us are very grateful for that fact. There's obviously work that goes on after the students are off for summer break, i.e., camps. We immediately start working on plans for next year. And we're rolling some of those out. We had a meeting today and we discussed updates to the Healthy Start policy, then lo and behold, Governor Abbott issued an executive order that dealt with the very thing that we talked about for Healthy Start. I wanted to make the board aware and the parents that in Governor Abbott's order, he states this: Public Schools may continue to follow policies regarding the wearing of face coverings to the extent reflected in current guidance by the Texas Education Agency until June 4, 2021. Texas Education Agency shall revise its guidance such that effective 11:59pm on June 4, 2021, no student, teacher, parent or other staff member or visitor may be required to wear a face covering. How that relates is, in our discussion about the Healthy Start policy, we talked about ending our mask mandate in making those optional for our students, as of 12:01am, on 5/28/21, which is graduation day, as we will be making those optional at graduation, parents can have the choice then to finish out the year that way on that special day. I wanted to make the board and any and attendance aware that that will be the case. And we'll be updating the Healthy Start policy tomorrow to reflect that. I also wanted to give a quick update on the building that at the 8300 West freeway location, we did receive comments from the city. The developers have been diligently working on those and coordinating the efforts of their team. They compiled a list of all the city comments, and they have come up with ways to resolve all of them without having to add sprinklers to the building. Which is a huge cost in the overall development because the modulares have already been built. They will however add a fire hydrant that is accessible to the buildings, which is a great thing. One of the city's big comments was that the exterior facade of the modular needs to be reflective of the exterior of the existing building. And so, the way they worded that was that the only solution the city will accept is adding some type of cementitious facade. The construction team, their civil engineer and Ramtech, which is the construction company that built the modulares, are working on a solution. They are hoping to resubmit those plans tomorrow to the city and then schedule information with the contractors and try to get an accurate construction schedule. They will continue to push on our behalf so that we can get everything rolled out and ready. Meg, I appreciate what you've done. I appreciate the fact that you've been such a strong supporter of our school. And I understand as a parent, your concern about the campus, I understand the concerns of other parents. And I've reached out to folks individually by email that have shared concerns that you've had. And then as you said, I sent the email on Sunday. There's not a lot that I can say other than the timeline that we've had with this project has not met any of our expectations. And I understand that the fence is a big piece of this. I guarantee you that I am concerned about the safety of the students and actions speak louder than words and unfortunately, we've not been able to put that fence up yet. But we will have a fence. It's just not here yet. I simply wanted to thank you for your openness, your willingness to step out of a comfort zone and risk hurt feelings. And I wanted to let you know that I appreciate your words.

- **Jana Tennyson** – I wanted to give you a heads up that probably next month, you will hear more, we have a budget in the works proposed for next year, which will be presented. We are also providing documentation for our bond process right now. We have received notice about our ESSR 3 big grant funds, we have been training for that application, to turn that in. Those are all items that we will be sharing with you in June, to be able to take a look at and see the numbers for that.
- **Jackie Hernandez** – presented Financial Report - Motion made by Jaye Sanford, 2nd by Pam Hartwell (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) Form 990 Tax Return Approval - No vote necessary.
- b) Valedictorian Scholarship - Motion made by Pam Hartwell, 2nd by Jaye Sanford (Unanimously Approved).
- c) Salutatorian Scholarship - Motion made by Jaye Sanford, 2nd by Pam Hartwell (Unanimously Approved).
- d) Discussion of Property Taxes
- e) New Business
- f) Executive Session (Personnel/Financial) – Motion made to enter Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. by Pam Hartwell, 2nd by Jaye Sanford (Unanimously Approved).
- g) Reconvene from Executive Session/Vote on items discussed in Executive Session – Motion made to exit Executive Session at 8:38 pm by Jaye Sanford, 2nd by Pam Hartwell (Unanimously Approved).
Action item “e” - Motion made to appeal by Pam Hartwell, 2nd by Jaye Sanford
- h) Request(s) by Board Member(s) for item(s) to be placed on agenda for next board meeting - None at this time.

Adjourn

Motion made by Pam Hartwell , 2nd by B.K. Myles (Unanimously Approved); Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Adjournment Approved

Minutes submitted and certified by President Connie Barnett

Connie Barnett, Board President