

12/13/2018

Upon determining the presence of a quorum, Dr. April Willis called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Name	Office	Present	Absent	Arrived Late	Departed Early
Dr. April Willis	Board Chair	✓			
Alyssa Moore	Parliamentarian	✓			
Natalie Elliott	Secretary	✓			
Jesus Aguilar	Secondary Teacher	✓			
Matt Embry	Secondary Parent	✓			
Chris Juraska	Elementary Teacher	✓			
Dr. David Molina	Community member	✓			
George Gentile	Community member	✓			
Kari Honea	Elementary Parent	✓			
Amy Adams	Secondary Parent		✓		
Priscilla Cavazos	Elementary Parent		✓		
Sruti Ramachandran	Student Rep (non-voting)			✓ 6:07	
Kathleen Zimmermann	Executive Director	✓			
Joey Thompson	Director of Operations	✓			
Julie Atchley	Director of Federal Programs		✓		
Curtis Wilson	Secondary Principal		✓		
Terry Berkenhoff	Elementary Principal	✓			
Hweilu Chen	Director of Finance			✓ 6:28	
Amy Elms	Community Outreach		✓		
Megan Podd	Secondary Asst. Prin.		✓		
Marcos Diaz	Human Resources		✓		
Samantha Gladwell	High Reliability Schools & Grant Coordinator	✓			
Donida Garcia	Elementary Teacher	✓			
Shawn Bliss	Secondary Teacher	✓			✓

Other Business/Public Comment

The agenda for the evening was discussed. Dr. April Willis struck item 5. d. from the agenda. Dr. David Molina moved to approve the agenda as amended. Chris Juraska seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed and voted on the minutes from the November 15, 2018 meeting. Dr. David Molina moved to approve the minutes. Alyssa Moore seconded. The Board voted to approve the minutes. Natalie Elliott abstained.

Shawn Bliss, the Restorative Practices Coordinator, presented on the use of Restorative Practices to handle discipline issues on the NYOS secondary campus.

Laurel Hanson, an officer from the NYOS Chapter of the International Thespian Society discussed the possibility of constructing a performance space as part of the new construction on campus. Mrs. Ramachandran added that as a member of the Indian community, her organizations are constantly

looking for venues like auditoriums to rent as a way to generate an additional sources of revenue for the campus.

Kathleen Zimmerman presented Board member Sruti Ramachandran (student member) with an Outstanding Sophomore Scholarship, which will be awarded to the postsecondary institution she attends upon graduation.

Board Member Election

Kathleen Zimmermann announced that former Elementary Teacher member Samantha Gladwell had to resign her Board position due to a change in title that disqualifies her as an Elementary Teacher. In her place, Donida Garcia has been appointed to serve out the rest of Samantha's term.

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:21 p.m. in accordance with Texas Governance Code Section 551.074 regarding personnel matters: to deliberate the appointment of a public officer. The Board exited the Executive Session and resumed the general Board meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Unfinished Business/New Business

Dr. April Willis announced the results of balloting for new member for NYOS School Board. Dr. David Molina moved to accept the results of the election. Matt Embry seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the election of Donida Garcia as the new Elementary Teacher member.

Joey Thompson took the floor to present policies 600.140 and discussed that after consultation with the HR coordinator regarding employee benefits for employees who work 30 hours per week or more. He shared that he and Kathleen agreed to make no changes to this policy at this time.

He also presented 600.160 regarding State Fiscal Compliance. There are no changes recommended at this time. George Gentile motioned to accept. Alyssa Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen Zimmermann presented the School FIRST Annual Financial Management Report. This is a rating from the TEA. This report also discloses the terms of Kathleen Zimmermann's employment as well as any compensation given Board members during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. NYOS received a superior rating. Hweilu Chen discussed how the financial management report is calculated. She explained that in the year of the report (16-17) NYOS was refinancing its bond for the new property acquisition, which resulted in a low rating on our Debt Service Coverage Ratio.

Kathleen Zimmermann presented information regarding that the grant offered by the Charter School Growth Fund was actually a higher amount than originally projected. She also shared that she and Joey Thompson attended a strategic growth plan training that provided information on how NYOS can present information about the growth plan. Kathleen Zimmermann also shared that a professional marketing team will be employed for future efforts.

Kathleen Zimmermann also discussed placing all of the existing high school classes by name in the existing buildings at the current Lamar campus. She explains how this helps clarify how much additional space is actually needed in new construction.

She shared that there will be new Charter First criteria coming from TEA next year. They discussed a replication grant that will be available to NYOS in the future.

There is also a legislative update that includes a bill that requires charters to enroll students who have previously experienced adjudication and alternative disciplinary placement.

Kathleen Zimmermann also shared how her meetings with small groups of teachers have gone. She clarified this has been a good opportunity to answer questions any instructional staff may have.

Committees

The Executive Director review committee has already been appointed--Dr. April Willis, Dr. David Molina, Alyssa Moore, and George Gentile.

There was also a call for a teacher member to join the Nomination Committee for the forthcoming elections in the spring. Jesus Aguilar and Chris Juraska agreed to be the teacher members of the board.

Matt Embry presented the Financial Oversight Committee update. Current enrollment is 1,016 students. We have five vacancies. Otherwise cash flow is good.

Hweilu Chen presented the current operating budget. The revenue has been updated. She discussed why she zeroed out the budget for school facility funding. Dr. Willis noted the Charter School Growth Fund grant and its estimates as they appear in the operating budget projection. Sruti Ramanchandran asked a question about the budget surplus. Hweilu Chen explained that this number is projected by predictions about student enrollment. She also explained that usually midyear, the surplus is lower.

Dr. David Molina moved to accept the budget amendment. Chris Juraska seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The date for the Board training with Texas Charter School Association is on February 20, 2019 at Plains Capital Bank. It will begin at 8:30 and end around 3:30.

Alyssa Moore presented the Property Development Committee update. Last month on meeting night, she meant to include a site visit. Another site visit was completed today (purpose: get idea of layout, space, needs, etc). The committee visited Gateway College Prep in Georgetown, which began with a similar land acquisition and started with portables. They invited their architects, contractors, project managers, and maintenance teams to share their insight with our committee. NYOS is negotiating the contract with HKS, and representatives from the firm have already collaborated with Kathleen Zimmermann to address planning needs. There is some conversation about building in phases rather than a single multi-story building. Kathleen Zimmermann shared that project managers will hold meetings on January 15th-17th to interview focus groups, School Board members, and acquaint themselves with the NYOS community.

Other Business

Agenda items for the January Board meeting were discussed. Campus Improvement Plan updates, there will be an agenda item about Code of Conduct, there will be an update on MLL students, and hopefully vote on the calendar for the next school year.

Adjournment time: 7:09 PM

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. in accordance with Texas Governance Code Section 551.0821 regarding personally identifiable information about a public school student: to deliberate a matter about a public school student if personally identifiable information about the student will necessarily be revealed by the deliberation.

The Board exited the Executive Session in adjournment of the meeting.

Natalie Elliott
Secretary