

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

of

NEW ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, INC.

D/B/A MAIN STREET HIGH SCHOOL

February 25, 2021

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of New Alternative Education High School of Osceola County, Inc. d/b/a Main Street High School was held on Thursday, February 25, at 4:30 p.m. In light of Executive Order 20-69 (Emergency Management – COVID-19 – Local Government Public Meetings), dated March 20, 2020, which allows the Governance Board to “utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing,” this meeting was conducted by the Governance Board via electronic communication and will be live-streamed on Zoom.

The following Governing Board Members were present via Zoom video conference: Charlie Barnett, Board Chairman; Gary Smith, Treasurer; and Belinda Kirkegard.

Also present via Zoom video conference were: Thom Jackson, President & CEO, EdisonLearning; Michelle Schmitt, Senior Controller, EdisonLearning; Dr. Eunice Casey, Director of Specialized Student Services, EdisonLearning; Marines Alvarez, Human Resources, EdisonLearning; Ralph Arza, Principal, Arza and Associates; and James Hawk ESE and ESOL Specialist, Main Street High School.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 P.M.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Charles Barnett and Dr. Eunice Casey recorded the Minutes.

Mr. Barnett welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance.

There was no public input.

Quorum was present.

The first item discussed was the SY21 Corrective Action Plan. Mr. Jackson clarified that there were no action items but that the meeting was consistent with the Board’s request for a follow-up meeting in February for an update on the Plan provided to Dr. Pace, enrollment, and the budget impact from that perspective. For transparency, Ms. Kirkegard disclosed that she, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Arza, had a conversation about some of the concerns with regards to the Management Company and its operations with the school.

Mr. Jackson expressed that Ms. Kirkegard challenged the Management Company to ensure that the Management Company was responsive to the concerns raised by the district and that there are controls in place to ensure they are being addressed and the deficiencies are being cured.

School Matters

For purposes of continuity, Mr. Jackson provided the Board with a review of the 9 areas of concerns presented to the Board at the Special Meeting in January. A discussion ensued on each of the following items:

1. Lack of Certified Personnel
2. Enrollment decline
3. Decreased average daily attendance
4. Lack of progress monitoring
5. Student progression
6. Data reporting
7. Graduation rate
8. Students in the DJJ System
9. Urgency with response to the district's concerns

Mr. Jackson reported that with regards to the lack of certified personnel, the finding was that one teacher did not have an Out of Field Waiver. Dr. Casey clarified that there is a process in place that ensures the board receives approval requests for all Out of Field Waivers for teachers who are out of compliance.

Mr. Jackson reviewed the new dashboard created by Mrs. Shreya Amin and explained that we are now taking all of the schoolwide data and incorporate it into an analytical tool that removes as much human interaction with the data, as possible. The administrative team now has access to this analytical tool to effectively monitor enrollment, attendance, student progression, and academic achievement.

Mr. Jackson then discussed the instructional and non-instructional positions, student progression and attendance rate by grade level. He shared that our company-wide benchmark attendance target is 65%. This beats the national average which is under 50%. Mr. Jackson explained that the attendance data is now downloaded directly from the district's system, and placed into an analytical view as presented to the board. Mr. Jackson then provided a review of the year-to-date attendance and shared that the school currently has both parent and student-based initiatives in place that is driving attendance in the right direction.

In discussing the school's graduation rate, Mr. Jackson explained the school's challenges were the Withdrawal Codes and ensuring that the school was making timely withdrawal of students for non-attendance. Dr. Casey added that for this school, the emphasis needs to be on the W15 and W22 students and the need for a system in place to ensure that the withdrawal codes are updated based on the students last known whereabouts.

Mr. Arza then emphasized the importance of verifying the school's data and Mr. Smith explained that it is important for us to make the corrections and moving forward, address the concerns raised by the district. Mr. Jackson clarified that we now have direct access to more granular data and that we are implementing procedures that addresses all of the district's concerns. Mr.

Jackson explained that prior to the pandemic, the Achievement Team conducted onsite data visits. However, Covid has taught us that we relied too heavily on these onsite evaluations and that there was a presumption of integrity that principals are reporting accurate information.

For consistency, Ms Kirkegard raised the issue of the board being a part of North Star and Chairman Barnette suggested that the matter be brought up at a regular Board Meeting. Mr. Arza shared that while the district is concerned with the graduation of students who are in cohort, for our students, the focus is to graduate students whether they are in or out of cohort.

Mr. Smith inquired about what needs to be done in order to have a better relationship with Osceola School district to ensure that we are not getting students who are significantly behind in credits, during the final year of their cohort.

Using the Andrews staffing model, Mr. Jackson reviewed the Org Chart in relation to Main Street, and the vacated and additional positions that will be added relevant to the number of student enrollment. Mr. Jackson also provided an update on the status of the advancement of a qualified candidate for the PAO position and shared that at the next Board Meeting, the Board will have an opportunity to meet him.

Budget Impact

For informational purposes, Ms. Schmitt provided the Board with a review of the impact of enrollment on the school's budget. Ms. Schmitt indicated that because there was no growth in enrollment from the first to the second FTE count, we now have a deficit that is closer to \$372,000. Ms. Schmitt clarified that this amount includes having all the staff identified in the Org Chart. Mr. Jackson shared that the management fee for the rest of the year has been waived and is not included in the deficit amount.

Mr. Jackson explained that the Board does have the reserve to cover the deficit for this year, but moving forward, we must increase enrollment. Ms. Kirkegard asked about the option to apply for the PPP loan that was presented last year and explained that there is another round of PPP Loan coming up. Ms. Kirkegard suggested that we explore the option to submit an application for this round of PPP loan.

To target enrollment, Mr. Jackson shared that there will be an onsite Enrollment Coordinator and CEAL as well as a local marketing firm who will be working to increase the school's enrollment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

By: 

Title: Chair