



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Location 1: Aspire Public Schools, 1001 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave Oakland, CA 94606

Meeting Conference Line: 1-719-325-2630; Passcode: 804315

**I. Public Business Meeting**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:37 AM. Quorum for the meeting was confirmed.

**Board Members Present:** Jonathan Garfinkel, Warren Felson, Beth Hunkapiller, Leslie Hume, Jim Boyd, Steven Merrill and Jim Quigley were present in Location 1 in Oakland, CA.

**Staff Present:** Carolyn Hack, Elise Darwish, Heather Kirkpatrick, Delphine Sherman, Emmile Brack and Shireen Burns.

**II. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**III. Public Comments Not on the Agenda:** There were no public comments.

**IV. Chairperson and CEO Comments:**

A. Chairperson's Report –There was no Chairperson's report.

B. Other Board Member Comments –There were no other Board Member comments.

C. CEO Comments –Carolyn Hack gave an overview of the agenda for the day, stating that Board members would start off with a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Common Core test demonstration, led by Elise Darwish, and following that, would launch into updates on the Pre-K bus, Memphis, the CEO's first 100 days, fundraising and Board governance.

**V. Discussion, Action Items and Reports:**

A. Aspire University Board Appointment –The Board accepted the appointment of Sidney R. Smith III as a new Aspire U Board member. Jonathan moved and Jim Q seconded; the Board unanimously accepted the appointment of Sidney R. Smith III to Aspire U's Board. Votes: Yes: 3 –Jonathan, Jim Q, and Jim B; No: 0; Abstain: 2 –Leslie, Warren. *(Steven and Beth had not yet joined the meeting, and therefore they were not present to vote).*

B. 2010 Bond Refinancing Approval –Delphine Sherman led the Board through the discussion on bond refinancing and renegotiating the covenants, to seek approval on delegating authority to the Executive Committee to approve the final bond refinancing documents. Jim Q moved and Jim B seconded; unanimously approved. Approval: Yes: 6 –Jonathan, Steven, Jim Q, Jim B, Warren and Leslie; No: 0; Abstain: 0. *(Beth did not join the meeting until 10:30 AM, and therefore was not present to vote).*

C. Common Core Assessment Demonstration –Elise Darwish had the Board members take a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level Common Core test on laptops as a way to demonstrate first-hand what new online testing looks and feels like. No approvals were made.

D. Updates and Q&A on Preschool and Memphis –Elise showed the Board a video on the Aspire Pre-School Bus and allowed time for Board members to ask questions about the pilot and work going forward. Carolyn gave the Board an update on the opportunity in Memphis for Aspire to open its first open enrollment charter in Shelby County next school year, and gave the Board time to ask questions. No approvals were made.

*The Board adjourned for a break at 11:29 AM, and resumed the meeting at 11:35 AM.*



College for Certain

E. CEO Update –First 100 Days --Carolyn gave a presentation to the Board on her observations in her first 100 days at Aspire, emphasizing the need to focus on improving student outcomes. The Board gave their input and this was a discussion item only. No approvals were made.

*The Board adjourned for lunch at 1:21 PM. The meeting resumed at 1:30 PM.*

F. Fundraising Strategy & Update –Due to time constraints, this agenda item was tabled for a future meeting discussion. There was no discussion of this item.

G. Board Development and Remaining 2015-16 Meeting Schedule --Jonathan Garfinkel presented suggestions for Board terms going forward and also gave an update on the search process for potential new Board members. The Board calendar was also reviewed for the remainder of the school year. No approvals were made.

VI. **Adjournment to Closed Session:** The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 2:07 PM.

VII. **Closed Session:**

A. Anticipated Litigation. –One case was discussed.

VIII. **Reconvene to Public Meeting:** The meeting reconvened at 2:22 PM.

A. Report out on Closed Session Items: No action was taken. Jonathan Garfinkel reported no other Closed Session actions taken other than what was already noted in Section VII.

IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:23 PM.

Approved this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2016 at Oakland, CA.

  
Emmille Brack, Board Secretary