



College for Certain

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Location 1: Aspire East Palo Alto Charter School, 1286 Runnymede Street East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Location 2: 6410 Poplar Avenue Suite 710 Memphis, TN 38119

Meeting Conference Line: 1-415-655-0381; Passcode: 382-455-687#

I. Public Business Meeting

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM. Quorum for the meeting was confirmed.

Board Members Present: Warren Felson, Beth Hunkapiller, Leslie Hume, Jim Quigley and Steven Merrill were present in Location 1 in East Palo Alto, CA. Jim Boyd was present via video conference in Location 2 in Memphis, TN.

Board Members Absent: Jonathan Garfinkel

Staff Present: Carolyn Hack, Elise Darwish, Heather Kirkpatrick, Delphine Sherman, Bess Kennedy, Emmile Brack, D'Lonra Ellis, Kimi Kean, Alli Leslie, Sharon Johnson, Carolyn Choy 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 presented the Board with updates on: recent parent involvement efforts throughout the Aspire regions; staff transitions; upcoming fundraising events; student outcome goals; the Ed Team structure; and Board meeting calendar dates. Carolyn thanked Elise Darwish for all of her years in service of the students, teachers and staff of Aspire.

V. Discussion, Action Items and Reports:

A. Aspire East Palo Alto Charter School –Observe Classrooms –Sharon Johnson and Kimi Kean gave an introduction into what the Board members would be observing in the Kindergarten, 3rd grade and 4th grade classrooms. The Board members and staff then visited two classrooms each and discussed their observations of the Common Core math lessons. This was a discussion topic only and no decisions or approvals were made.

B. The Approval of Changes to Aspire Bylaws & Term Limits were moved by Steven and seconded Jim Q. The approval was made, but the decision was not unanimous. Approval: Yes: 4 –Warren, Steven, Jim Q, Leslie; No: 1 –Beth; Abstain: 0.

C. The Nomination of Kay Hong to the Aspire Board of Directors was moved by Leslie and seconded by Steven. Approval: Yes: 5 –Warren, Beth, Steven, Jim Q, Leslie; No: 0; Abstain: 0.

D. 2016-17 Budget Preview and Timeline –Delphine Sherman gave the Board a summary of the budget and timeline for 2016-17, and went over the budget assumptions and strategy going forward, given the recent bond covenant refinancing and changing CA funding levels. This was a discussion item only and no decisions or approvals were made.



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E. Aspire ERES Academy – Approvals for Construction Budget, Architectural & Engineering Services Contract, Delegation of Authority to Finance Committee –Delphine presented information on the ERES Academy facility site and construction budget. Three approvals were made:

1. The Construction Budget for ERES for up to \$26M was moved by Steven and seconded by Jim Q; unanimously approved. Approval: Yes: 5 –Warren, Beth, Steven, Jim Q, Leslie; No: 0; Abstain: 0.
2. The Architectural & Engineering Services Contract for ERES for up to \$1.45M was moved by Jim Q and seconded by Leslie; unanimously approved. Yes: 5 –Warren, Beth, Steven, Jim Q, Leslie; No: 0; Abstain: 0.
3. The Delegation of Authority to the Executive Committee for ERES construction within the approved \$26M budget was moved by Jim Q and seconded by Steven; unanimously approved. Yes: 5 –Warren, Beth, Steven, Jim Q, Leslie; No: 0; Abstain: 0.

F. Update on Facility Opportunities in Oakland –Aspire College Academy & Aspire Triumph Technology Academy –Delphine gave an update on identifying a facility in Oakland for ACA and Triumph Academy to eventually merge into a K-8 model. This was a discussion item only and no decisions or approvals were made.

G. Update on Facility Opportunities in Modesto –Aspire University Charter School and Aspire Vanguard College Preparatory Academy –Delphine gave an update on the operating deficits for UCS and Vanguard, and the efforts to fix this by identifying a new site in a more central location in Modesto, applying for SB740 funding and raising enrollment. This was a discussion item only and no decisions or approvals were made.

The meeting adjourned for a lunch break at 12:30 PM. The meeting reconvened at 12:45 PM.

H. Aspire Memphis Growth Plan –Alli Leslie gave the Board an update on the plan to gradually grow the Memphis region to focus more closely on quality. Approval was sought to open one new Aspire K-1 school in Memphis in August 2016 under Shelby County Schools –Beth moved and Steven seconded; unanimously approved. Yes: 5 –Warren, Beth, Steven, Jim Q, Leslie; No: 0; Abstain: 0.

I. Approval of Capital Expenditures for Existing Facilities for Aspire Hanley and Aspire Coleman in Memphis – Alli Leslie gave the Board an update on facility issues with our existing school facilities in Memphis. It was decided that additional due diligence be done to identify potential solutions to facility issues before the next Executive Committee meeting, and that authority would be delegated to the Executive Committee to consider and, if warranted, approve the proposed capital expenditures budget for new windows and HVAC systems in the Memphis schools. This was moved by Jim Q and seconded by Steven; unanimously approved. Yes: 5 – Warren, Beth, Steven, Jim Q, Leslie; No: 0; Abstain: 0.

IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Approved this 7th Day of April, 2015 at Oakland, CA.


D'Lonra Ellis, Board Secretary