



B.E.S.T. ACADEMY
MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, September 10, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of B.E.S.T. Academy (“**B.E.S.T.**” or the “**School**”) was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, by online Zoom meeting.

Directors Present:

Edward Singh, Ognen Nastov, Michal Alchikh, Chad Leptich

Directors Absent:

Patricia Karlin, Joseph Cipres

Also Present:

Jim Mays, Alex Soriano, Corey Cavanah, Queta Luquin, Jason Arca

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chad Leptich called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and Jason Arca recorded the minutes. A quorum of the directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with the business.

2. AGENDA

Motion Passed: Approve agenda. Passed with a motion by Michal Alchikh and a second by Ognen Nastov. All members approved by roll-call vote

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 7, 2019

Chad Leptich asked to make a correction in the minutes to read “at-will” employee.

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Michal Alchikh and a second by Edward Singh. All members approved by roll-call vote.

4. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No one from the public had opted to speak.

5 to 7. CLOSED SESSION

There were no matters for a closed session at this time.

8. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chad Leptich

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS / RECOGNITION / REPORTS

No members of the public had shared any comments.

10. CORRESPONDENCE/PROPOSALS/REPORTS

a. Enrollment and Budget Report

The school is at 203 and have two more students to process by the end of the day. Most students reside in Riverside and Orange Counties.

Cory got approval by CDE for PENSAC, \$570K, based on 200 students, which is right on target. Nothing has been expensed anything yet, but can start doing so October when funding is received.

b. Student / Parent Handbooks

Handbook had been approved, under condition that necessary sections be added, as suggested by Patricia Karlin. Sections that were added: grievance due process; cyberbullying, sexting, and other prohibited behaviors; youth suicide prevention policy; staff training; and the McKinney Vento Act Homeless Assistance Act.

c. Employee Handbook

Employee handbook was also approved.

d. Grant

BEST Academy is applying for a startup school grant for \$175,000 with help from Queta Luquin and Bryan Farmer.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Expense Reports (PASSED)

Approval of this item approves the reimbursement of expenses incurred by employees and/or board members

Reimbursement reports from Jim and Alex were shown, which mostly contains the technology purchases for students and teachers.

Approval Motion: Nastov. Second: Singh. Ayes: All.

b. Substitute Positions and Pay Rate (PASSED)

Approval of this item establishes the temporary substitute position

Job posting was shown. Pay rate is comparable to LAUSD's (\$250/day; 6hr/day).

Approval Motion: Alchikh. Second: Nastov. Ayes: All.

c. Executive Directors Contract (PASSED)

Approval of this item approves the Co-Executive contract with BEST Academy and the school board

Compensation is \$135,000 under a two-year contract, dependent on ongoing enrollment and expenses. Accrued vacation will be capped at 50 days.

Approval Motion: Alchikh. Second: Singh. Ayes: All.

d. Special Education Manager Stipend (SHELVED)

Approval of this item establishes a stipend for the management of the Special Education program

Directors feel that rather than offering a stipend, a large caseload for special ed students would be better handled by a contract person. Request to shelf item.

e. Beyond Today Student Mentoring (PASSED)

Approval of this contract and expense establishes a partnership with a student mentoring group

Social-emotional hybrid (virtual/in-person) program to be an elective for one year, with many athletics and team sports-oriented topics for Winner Circle students. \$250 per student per year. Total \$21, 250 for the year. As BEST Academy grows, program is expected to expand to be relevant for all types of students, with stronger virtual component.

Approval Motion: Singh. Second: Nastov. Ayes: All.

f. Special Board Meeting (SHELVED?)

Approval of this Special Board Meeting establishes a date and time for board members to fulfill Brown Act Training and Establish BEST Academy Board Bylaws

Requires its own time outside of regular meeting. Estimated time is 60-90 minutes.

Board need to make bylaws. Jim relayed Patricia's suggestion that the board do this in a Saturday workshop. Jim will send out email with information including dates.

12. BOARD COMMENTS

Cipres: As a board, be aware that there are upcoming changes in the laws regarding charter schools.

Singh: Good job on enrollment numbers.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS COMMENT

Jim: Teacher just had PD training to prepare them for school. Students have just completed benchmark assessments.

Alex: Online learning poses challenges different from traditional schools; stressful but fun.

Jim: No October meeting. If Special Ed provider is hired, then a special board meeting may be required.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- November 6th, Wednesday
- December 4th, Wednesday
- February 5th, Wednesday
- March 4th, Wednesday
- May 6th, Wednesday

15. ADJOURNMENT 6:52

Motion: Singh. Second: Alchikh. Ayes: All.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors adjourned at 6:52 pm.