



APPROVED 11/14/2018

Reach Cyber Charter School

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Held at the following location and via teleconference

Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel

4650 Lindle Road

Harrisburg, PA 17111

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other.

Board Members Present: David Taylor, Joe Harford, Dave Biondo, Alex Schuh, Gail Hawkins-Bush and Paul Donecker (all in person);

Guests: Jane Swan, School Leader; Karen Yeselavage, Rachel Parker, Brad Testa, LeeAnn Richie and Greg McCurdy, School Staff; Kevin Corcoran, Charter Choices, Financial Consultant; Tom ap Simon, Itine Estuart-Ruiz, Andrew Pasquinilli, Amanda Jay, Heather Woodward and Megann Arthur, Pearson Online and Blended Learning (POBL) staff (in person); Tanya Lee, POBL staff (via phone).

II. Welcome, Introductions and Breakfast

Ms. Arthur welcomed all participants and provided a brief overview of the day's agenda and objectives, as developed with the school leader and Board Chair. All in attendance introduced themselves to the group.

III. Regular Board Meeting

The Board held their regular meeting to begin the day, of which minutes were kept separately.

[The Board took a break at the conclusion of the regular meeting at 10:40 a.m. Mr. Corcoran, Ms. Yeselavage, Ms. Parker, Mr. Testa, Ms. Richie and Mr. McCurdy left the meeting at this time.]

[The Board resumed the retreat at 10:50 a.m.]

IV. Strategic Planning Overview

Ms. Woodward provided participants with an overview of the previously polled and submitted responses by members of the Board and school leadership to the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis for the school. Ms. Woodward, Ms. Arthur and Board members discussed priorities for the day's strategic planning session, and POBL staff members reviewed documentation and research performed to date to assist the Board in their strategic planning process.

V. Brainstorming of Potential Goals (SWOT)

Board members held discussion on specific challenges for online K-12 education, as well as examples of successful strategies that have proven to make a significant difference for students. The Board had an in-depth discussion with the School Leader and POBL staff regarding the political climate in the state, as well as student retention, attendance and outcomes. Board members further began brainstorming high level potential goals and objectives for the school and the Board.

[The Board took a break for lunch at 12:05 p.m. Mr. ap Simon and Ms. Estuart-Ruiz left the meeting at this time.]

VI. Lunch

[The Board resumed the retreat at 1:15 p.m.]

VII. Confirm Strategic Goals

Board members discussed the potential goals established during the brainstorming session earlier in the day. The Board confirmed final goals with which to build their strategic plan and associated individual action plans, focusing on improving student achievement, growing the school's S.T.E.M. program, managing responsible school growth, and reviewing staff compensation.

VIII. Action Planning for Strategic Goals

Following the establishment of the specific goals, the Board worked with Ms. Woodward and Ms. Swan to brainstorm action items and plans to support completion of each goal. Board members discussed data available to them from the school and POBL, as well as expectations that have been communicated to the school by their authorizer, and how to incorporate all into the plans. The Board requested Ms. Woodward and Ms. Swan finalize a draft strategic plan for their discussion during the next regular meeting.

IX. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Taylor inquired if there was any other business or discussion. There being no further business or discussion, he noted that the next meeting date is Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. The Board being at the end of its agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.