

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Learn4Life South Carolina
A South Carolina Not-for-Profit Corporation

Date: June 16, 2022

Time: 4:00pm Eastern

Meeting held via Zoom

1. **A Call to Order and Attendance:** The meeting was called to order at 4:09pm by Dan Luginbill. Board members in attendance are: Dan Luginbill, Todd Senf, Richard Thaler, and Sam Cooper

Guests in attendance are: Heaven Ruiz, Adam Miller, Avery Giannoulis, Andy Holmes, Grace Bautista, Kevin Welsh, Mike VanKirk, Valerie Chase, Skip Hansen, Pat Hill, Guita Sharifi, Anne Peterson, and Jenara Noel
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes** from May 25, 2022
 - i. A motion made by Mr. Thaler to approve the May 25, 2022, meeting minutes as presented was unanimously approved by the board
4. **Finance Report:** a second reading and discussion of the draft 2022-23 Budget was completed.
 - a. Jenara Noel reported that the budget is based on an enrollment of 200 students and clarified after Mr. Luginbill's question that staffing is also based on 200 students. Jenara also noted that revenue adjustments can be made after actuals are reported on specific count days. Kevin Welsh clarified that the enrollment projection of 200 was based on language in the contract and that enrollment and funding will fluctuate, and staff will be hired as needed. Richard Thaler questioned finding staff in the middle of a school year, to which Skip Hansen replied that there are often retired teachers or others disinterested in traditional school systems that may be looking. Mr. Luginbill suggested staying ahead of the game with recruiting and Mr. Thaler suggested keeping an interest list. Avery Giannoulis noted that Math and English teachers are needed and are currently posted and responded to Mr. Thaler's question about ESL/primary second language noting that the English teacher currently supports ESL students, and Spanish is the primary second language.
5. **Approval Items**
 - a. Board Election Process and Timeline
 - i. Anne Peterson reported that election support will be included in current membership with the Alliance. Unfortunately, more time will be needed. In Addition, Ms. Peterson is working on recruitment for additional members. Valerie Chase reported that LLAC is also working on recruitment.
 - ii. A motion made by Mr. Luginbill to accept the election support with the Alliance and complete the election no later than July 31 was unanimously approved by the board
 - b. Auditor Selection

- i. Bids were received from Martin Smith and Elliot Davis. Ms. Noel noted that auditors should be selected before June 30, so the timing is important as of this meeting.
- ii. A motion made by Mr. Luginbill to approve Martin Smith at the auditor was unanimously approved by the board

6. Discussion Items/Reports

a. School Report

- i. Mike VanKirk reported that Allison White is doing a great job supporting the school while Avery Giannoulis is in the Midwest for graduations. In addition, Valerie Chase and Pat Hill are in person supporting the school. Mr. VanKirk also noted that an offer for the principal position has been made and accepted, and the onboarding plan is in full swing.
- ii. Ms. White reported that there are approximately 10 students working through completing courses during the summer session
- iii. Mr. VanKirk added that the two big initiatives for the summer are onboarding the new principal and student outreach. The team is considering getting the new principal to CA to see other programs and meet support staff in July. If that is not possible, support staff may come to Charleston to do onboarding in person.
- iv. Ms. Giannoulis has worked with outreach teams to come up with potential events through October. She had a visit with Carolina Youth Development Center (potential partnership) and is attending the Juneteenth Family Fest. Looking to become a more familiar name and provide information on our program and potential partnerships. Ms. Giannoulis is working with marketing team to get out fliers and mailers for the Back-to-School event. Planning on having booth at July and August events if there's feedback on them being a good opportunity for marketing. Also looking at other partnership opportunities (Boys and Girls Clubs, Second Chance, others). Back to School event (August 13) planning on having all partners, enrolled and potential students, radio DJ and more. Goal is to have 200 students enrolled by August 23
- v. Mr. VanKirk asked the board if there were other known opportunities for outreach. Mr. Luginbill mentioned that there are a lot of church festivals now through the fall. Ms. Peterson noted that there is an email publication that notes most of the events and will make sure key players are connected but may want to be mindful of certain events as they can target elementary youth. Other opportunities, such as on-site events, malls, dollar stores, laundromats, hair salons/barber shops, etc. were mentioned.
- vi. Ms. Giannoulis noted that polls are done for students to find out how they heard about the school. Friends/family is number one and Snapchat is number two. Additional information regarding student outreach efforts will continue to be provided at future meetings

b. Planning for 2022-23

- i. Target is primarily principal onboarding and student outreach.

- ii. Ms. Chase noted that she will be supporting school changes along with Andy Holmes and Heaven Ruiz. In addition, some other Governance best practices will be put in place, including written school leader/enrollment/management organization updates and more.
- c. Principal Onboarding Process
 - i. The process has been shared and discussed prior to and throughout the meeting
- d. Legislative Update
 - i. Ms. Peterson reported that the Senate and House budget committees met last week, and yesterday. They took the House version of funding formula (removes 135-day count problem), and the formula is more favorable for charters. Senate had some weights for dual enrollment, CTE and speech. For our purposes, what was done was about as good as it gets. Huge moment in charter school funding in SC. Officially passed yesterday, is going to Governor's office for signing.

7. Open Discussion

- i. Mr. Hansen brought up relationships with the authorizer and being mindful of them in transition of new school leadership. Mr. Luginbill recommended that Ms. Peterson helps maintain those relationships for now as the new principal gets acclimated to the school program and needs. Ms. Peterson mentioned that the authorizer conference is being held the end of September and that the Alliance event dates are in the fall and in March

8. After no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm Eastern.