



The Anchor School

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

Monthly BOD Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday September 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Location

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81754720093>

Topic: TAS - Board Meeting

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Directors Present

D. Gregory (remote), D. Grissom (remote), E. Desprez Isbell (remote), J. Anfield-El (remote), J. Burton (remote), J. Whittington (remote), L. Stephens (remote), N. LeBlanc (remote), T. Ramsey (remote), V. Thompson (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present

J. Pinto Taylor (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

J. Pinto Taylor (remote)

Guests Present

Ben Crowe (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Gregory called a meeting of the board of directors of The Anchor School to order on Wednesday Sep 13, 2023 at 7:09 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors Meeting on 08-23-23.

J. Anfield-El seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Approve agenda

A. Motion to amend agenda and add two items

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to add two items to the agenda: Herman Solutions Whole Brain Model facilitation (from Dr. Gregory) and updates to our handbook and policies (from Dr. Pinto-Taylor).

J. Anfield-El seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Public Comment

No members from the public were present at this meeting.

III. School Opening Updates

A. Enrollment Updates

Dr. Pinto-Taylor shared that we're on track for enrollment. The goal is to have 80-100 scholars enrolled. He shared that the management team is providing resources as needed, and scholars are fitting in well.

Dr. Gregory encouraged board to review the school's Google reviews and see what the public is saying.

IV. Finance

A. CFO Financial Reports

Ben Crowe shared financial reports with the board. August financials aren't finalized because the board meeting was moved up. We're "in the green" for all indicators.

Dr. Gregory wants to focus on donation budgeting during the board retreat. We need to discuss how to get to \$25K of personal donation this year at the retreat.

Dr. Pinto-Taylor shared an operational update: We're now using Infinite Campus software and can accept payments from families through its portal. We also have a donations page on our school website that uses PayPal.

V. Governance

A.

Board Retreat Planning

The board retreat is scheduled for Sunday, September 24th from 10am-2pm at the school.

The board has documents to review and understand beforehand, and will have to vote on some items at the retreat. The ultimate goal of the retreat is to align on certain topics that we'll need to vote on.

D. Gregory made a motion to approve the board's participation in the Herman Solutions Whole Brain Model assessment and facilitation.

J. Anfield-El seconded the motion.

(Amendment to agenda)

Dr. Gregory introduced the Herman Solutions Whole Brain(R) Model. a helpful tool to understand how we show up in the world. This is an assessment that we'd complete online in about 15 minutes.

The facilitator is willing to offer free facilitation (normally \$135/per person). The total cost would be \$1,350, taken from our \$3,0000 retreat budget. Facilitation would happen in a special, one-hour session separate from the retreat.

Motion was passed. Dr. Gregory plans to follow up at the board retreat.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

N. LeBlanc	Aye
V. Thompson	Aye
J. Burton	Aye
D. Grissom	Aye
D. Gregory	Aye
L. Stephens	Aye
J. Whittington	Aye
E. Desprez Isbell	No
J. Anfield-El	Aye
T. Ramsey	No

B. Compliance Review

Skipped topic.

C. Public Comment

N/A

VI. Facility Updates

A. Request for Facility Ad Hoc Committee

Dr. Pinto-Taylor requested 2-3 board members to join an adhoc facility committee for Phase 2 development plans of the school. Phase 2 is focused on building out the rest of the school's interior. This will be informal, so doesn't need to be held to bylaws. The committee would meet either monthly or bi-weekly depending on the work to be done.

Nicole, Laura, Joseph, and Jasmine committed to joining. Laura committed to weekly cadence. Emily asked to be listed as a backup.

VII. Academic Updates

A. Diagnostic Assessment Report

Dr. Pinto-Taylor shared that we're almost complete with all of our fall diagnostic assessments.

We've now created personalized learning experiences for scholars. Lunchtime is divided into 30 minutes of eating and 30 minutes of personalized learning sessions.

Nicole asked how the school will capture student feedback for the personalized learning model. Dr. Pinto-Taylor answered that scholars will be asked at end of each quarter which personalized learning works best for them.

B. Handbook & Policy Updates

Dr. Pinto-Taylor would like the board to vote to approve adding policy language for sexual harassment and physical assault or batter of other students in the Family Handbook.

Taylor asked if we have a policy to limit parents posting media of other scholars (ie. not their own children). **Dr. Pinto-Taylor agrees to look into this.**

Emily asked if there's currently a media release. Dr. Pinto-Taylor answered yes, and he's going to hosting another round of requests to get something in writing from every family.

D. Gregory made a motion to approve adding policy language for sexual harassment and physical assault or batter of other students in Family Handbook .

D. Grissom seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Community Engagement

A. Community Events & Activities.

Upcoming events

Jasmine shared that Press Day is coming up on Tuesday, September 19th from 9-11am. Board members are welcome to join.

Founder's Day is on Monday, September 18th from 8:30-9:15am. Derrick will be the keynote speaker. and will speak to the Anchor School community on scholars reaching their full potential.

Dr. Gregory plans to send out invites to our former board members.

Fellowship updates

- The New School Venture Fund (Community of Practice) is convening in October or November.
- HighTech High is having a Year 2 series of content (professional development) workshops in December.
- The Charter School Growth Fund is convening in October.

Dr. Pinto-Taylor said that he'll reach out to program coordinators about content to see who is best to include at these events.

Dr. Gregory wants to add these events to the board retreat agenda, to share out key insights and learnings.

Jasmine wanted to gauge the school's partnership with Georgia Tech. Dr. Pinto-Taylor said it's going well.

IX. Closing Items

A. Summary of Commitments

- Ben Crowe will send out August financials.
- Announce that donations are now available on the school's website.
- Schedule breakfast for the retreat (needs an owner).
- Dr. Pinto-Taylor will follow up with the new facility committee.
- Jasmine will share brief summary of engagement for New School Venture Fund.
- Dr. Gregory will invite former board members to Founder's Day.
- Dr. Pinto-Taylor will investigate the schools policy around media sharing of scholars.
- Dr. Gregory will follow up about facilitation for the Herman Solutions Whole Brain(R) Model.

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
N. LeBlanc

The Anchor School is a village of educators, families, and community members that partners with 6th through 12th-grade students who are developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to thrive in school and beyond. Through our commitment to excellent instruction, community partnerships, and holistic student development, we cultivate anchors that build a more just and equitable future.

**In August 2022, the SCSC authorized TAS as a GA Charter School with approval to enroll students who will be in the 6th grade in the fall of 2023.*