APPROVED



Equitas Academy Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday April 28, 2022 at 3:00 PM

Location
JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A Live
900 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Additional Call-in Location:
4324 Franklin Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90027
1040 N Gardner St. #11, West Hollywood, CA 90046
4919 Biloxi Ave, North Hollywood, CA 91601

Topic: April Board Meeting
Time: Apr 28, 2022 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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Meeting ID: 889 0175 6397

PUBLIC COMMENT AT EQUITAS ACADEMY BOARD MEETINGS – An opportunity for the public to address the Board will be provided prior to discussion and action on agenda items. Members of the public who wish to speak on any item are requested to identify themselves and indicate on which agenda item they wish to speak. The Board will provide an opportunity for the public to speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes, unless granted additional time at the discretion of the Board. Testimony shall be limited in content to matters pertaining to Equitas Academy. The Board may not take any action on matters discussed during the public testimony period that are not listed on the agenda. Brown Act Compliance: Agenda posted at School.

Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in a meeting of the Board of Directors, may request assistance in advance of the meeting by contacting Equitas Academy Charter School at 1700 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90015 or by phone (213) 201-0440.

Directors Present
A. Santino (remote), C. Langston (remote), D. Krishna (remote), L. Heisser, O. Bajracharya, P. Reddy, T. Bell

Directors Absent
D. Ortiz, F. Spindler

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
L. Heisser

Guests Present
C. Melgares, J. Belcher, J. Rayas, K. Gouveia, L. Lofton, M. Borrego, M. Ford, S. Sobkov (remote), apariano@equitasacademy.org, cjanssens@equitasacademy.org

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I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

T. Bell called a meeting of the board of directors of Equitas Academy Charter School to order on Thursday Apr 28, 2022 at 3:02 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

O. Bajracharya made a motion to approve the minutes from January Board Meeting on 01-19-22.
D. Krishna seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Approve Minutes

O. Bajracharya made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 02-24-22.
D. Krishna seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Krishna	Aye
T. Bell	Aye
C. Langston	Aye
F. Spindler	Absent
O. Bajracharya	Aye
A. Santino	Aye
P. Reddy	Aye
D. Ortiz	Absent
L. Heisser	Absent

II. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

L. Heisser arrived at 3:07 PM.
There was no public comment.

III. Consent

A. 2022-2023 School Calendar

O. Bajracharya made a motion to 2022 - 2023 School Calendar.
P. Reddy seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

O. Bajracharya	Aye
C. Langston	Aye
D. Ortiz	Absent
A. Santino	Aye
L. Heisser	Aye
T. Bell	Aye

Roll Call	
D. Krishna	Aye
F. Spindler	Absent
P. Reddy	Aye

IV. Academic Accountability

A. Committee Goals

Alyssa Santino provided an update on the goals for FY 21-22 for the Academic Committee.

The Academic committee touched all goals that were set this past year and look forward to diving more deeply into new goals for the upcoming year.

V. Finance

A. Committee Goals

Prabhu Reddy provided an update on goals for FY 21-22 for the Finance committee.

The finance committees key priorities for next year are creating alignment with CEO successor in financial management and to provide successor with support in the area of financial management.

Questions?

- What is long term is long term?
  - The latest option has been looking at a 5 year plan.
- Given our current socio economic climate, do we see any potential threats to funding coming?
  - Yes, a key threat is the high cost of real estate development. Securing locations for EQ7 & EQ8 will be more expensive than the current schools in our network.
  - The interest rate environment will impact the bottom dollar as well inflation. Money spent on these things take away from money spent in the classroom.
  - We will need to create an execution plan as a backup in the case of recession. Equitas has continually planned for this and is in a great place to handle this possibility.

VI. Resource Development

A.

Committee Goals

Deepa Krishna provided an update on FY 21-22 goals for the Resource committee.

The overall goal has been reduced from $40,000 to $26,000 based on the committees evaluation of what is realistic.

This money raised goes directly to funding Alumni Scholarships.

Currently, approximately $6,000 of the $26,000 goal has been raised.

The resource committee will work with a consultant reach the Give Get Goals and to ensure that all Board members have the resources they need to activate their network for fundraising.

Maggie Ford provides an update on the Boards Give Get.

The Board has currently raised $6310.00 with 44% participation.

The specific scholarships funded by the Give Get because other funds that come through are restricted.

Of the 1,550,000 committed Fundraising, Y to D 600K has been received.

The Uncommitted fundraising goal is $330,000
- Totals received are 2.6M, 100K, 42K, 16K

Only 16k of the uncommitted funds raised are eligible towards alumni scholarship. The Give Get is still short of the goal.

Questions:

- Is there risk?
    - When bench marks are not hit there is always a risk.
- Is there was a direct tie between the board Give/Get and scholarship recipients? Is there a story that the board can share with their network?
    - Lilia Mitre with the parent partnership department will put together alumni stories for the Board to share with their network.

VII. Governance Committee

A. Committee Goals

There was no update on the FY 21-22 goals for the Governance Committee

B. 2022 Board Retreat

Tyler Bell provided an update on the FY21-22 Board Retreat that will take place on Friday, May 13th at the Langham Hotel. Leslie Robins will join as a facilitator for the Saturday session.

VIII. Org Updates: Budget, Real Estate, Enrollment for April, Financials, Academic Updates

A. Board Review of Monthly Financials

Slav Sobkov presented the Monthly Financial Package, including Income Statements, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow, Variance Analysis, and Check Register. He shared an overview of the impact of COVID19 on FY21 revenues and spending.

P. Reddy made a motion to Monthly Financials.
C. Langston seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Ortiz	Absent
O. Bajracharya	Aye
T. Bell	Aye
D. Krishna	Aye
C. Langston	Aye
P. Reddy	Aye
F. Spindler	Absent
A. Santino	Aye
L. Heisser	Aye

B. Organizational Updates: CEO Update and Progress to Goals

Malka Borrego provided Org updates highlighting the meeting focus on budget, real estate and enrollment. Parents and Alumni also joined during this meeting.

Ms. Borrego shared that CEO goals for FY 21-22 are on track,
Equitas has started a contract with Education Board Partners to help find new board members during the CEO transition.

All questions submitted by the Board were answered by staff members and can be referenced in the Board Meeting Agenda.

C. Organizational Updates: Budget, Real Estate, Enrollment Focus

Maggie Ford provided updates on the FY 23 draft budget and fiscal oversight, enrollment progress with highlights about current enrollment status and real estate holdings.

- There is currently a risk that we are not going to hit our enrollment targets because across the country, there are less students than before.
- We are averaging 6 applications a day. Our intents to reenroll are higher than before.
- There are plans to work with SD's to help build plans for each school to address specific enrollment needs.
- Equitas 5 and 6 are more fluid in their enrollment numbers because they do not have a permanent home yet which is on par with trends we have seen in the past.
- The Boards role in real estate and facilities is to ensure our projects remain on time and on budget.
- The current project is on time and on budget and is scheduled for completion on August 15th.

D. Planning Process

Maggie Ford provided an update on organization priorities and the planning process for the upcoming school year.

Gregg Gonzalez provided an update on school planning process, purpose and approach.

Questions/Comments:

- What are the drivers of the winter MAP results.
  - Lack of focus on executing high quality curriculum and instruction.
  - We are putting all eggs in the basic of 22-23 school year to ensure that we providing the highest quality education and instructional systems. We are looking to put our eggs in the basket of foundational research driven educational practices.
  - This year, all schools have aligned their goals.
- The Board would like to see additional plans on addressing the deficits that have been addressed.

E. Staff Retention

Cristina Lowry and Kyle Gouviea presents on staff retention. Ms. Lowry shares an update on herself as the new Director of People & Culture and shares key goals in the People and Culture department.

F. Academic Outcomes

Kyle Gouveia provided updates on academic outcomes and highlights DEIA data.

- DEIA data dissonance is seen because the survey used has a small number of questions that are actually targeted at DEIA. The DEIA survey is pointed at DEI so it changes the data set some.
- These two data sets give two separate pictures that each require different strategies.

G. Principal Voices/Principal Presentation

Corrie Janssens, the founding school Director of EQ4 presents and shares about her school priorities and cognitive lift goals.

- EQ4 has Implemented a restorative approach to discipline.
- 70% of EQ4 instructional staff retained from 21-22 school year to 22-23 school year.

Alaina Pariano, School Director for EQ3 shares about herself, and presents the EQ3 initiatives, and the areas of academic achievement. She also shared details on the insight survey data highlights.

IX. Connecting to Stakeholders

A. Alumni & Parents

Lilia Mitre, Director of Parent Partnership shares about herself, and her work with Equitas alumni and families.

Lilia's department is working on additional supports for students that are now in college. They will continue to be strategic about collecting EOY alumni data so they can identify what our alumni are doing, whether they are in college or not so they can continue to have access our services that we will make available to our students for 10 years. We will change the data collection to ensure that it is inclusive of all students even those who are not in college.

B. Connecting to Stakeholders

Alumni and parents attended the meeting to share the experience at Equitas with our Board members and staff.

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
T. Bell