



# Breakthrough Public Schools

## Minutes

### Breakthrough Public Schools Joint Board Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Monday May 22, 2023 at 5:00 PM

#### **Location**

Breakthrough Public Schools Home Office  
3615 Superior Avenue  
Building 44, Suite 4403A  
Cleveland, OH 44114

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**Meeting of the Boards of Breakthrough Public Schools, Citizens Academy Southeast, Citizens Leadership Academy East, Village Preparatory School Cliffs, Village Preparatory School Willard, and Village Preparatory School Woodland Hills.**

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#### **Directors Present**

A. KOPIT, A. Lee, C. Tancer, D. Eisenberg, J. Howard, J. Johnson (remote), L. Mimura, L. Zucca, P. Harris, S. Steinhouse, S. Vyas

#### **Directors Absent**

B. Schlang

#### **Guests Present**

C. Farmer, D. Rice-Ali, J. Berlin (remote), J. Kaye, M. Johnston, N. Martin, S. Wernet (remote)

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#### **I. Opening Items**

**A.**

### **Call the Meeting to Order**

S. Steinhouse called a meeting of the board of directors of Breakthrough Public Schools to order on Monday May 22, 2023 at 5:01 PM.

### **B. Record Attendance**

Guests: Dr. Ami Rudd; Melissa Capanegra and Rashida Evans, TNTP.

### **C. School boards vote to approve the 4/17/23 meeting minutes**

L. Zucca made a motion to approve the minutes from Special meeting of the school boards of directors on 04-17-23.

C. Tancer seconded the motion.

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

### **D. BPS and School Boards Vote to Approve 4/19/22 Joint Board Meeting Minutes**

L. Zucca made a motion to approve the minutes from Breakthrough Public Schools Joint Board Meeting on 04-19-23.

C. Tancer seconded the motion.

For BPS: Andrew Lee motioned, Paul Harris seconded, and all were in favor.

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

## **II. Public Comment**

### **A. School Boards Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **III. FOB Update**

### **A. FOB Updates**

FOB President John Zitzner shared the following highlights:

- The annual Breakthrough Bash was held at the end of April. Revenue is down from 2022, but overall it was still a success. The team is looking into how to improve the event for 2024.

- The FOB Golf Outing will be held on July 17th at Canterbury Golf Club.

- The Ohio state budget will be approved on 6/30/23. We are hopeful that high quality and facilities funding is approved. Legislation may get rid of the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee.

- FOB has purchased the Gaines funeral home and accompanying land next to the Woodland Hills campus. We will begin environmental testing this summer; construction/expansion plans TBD.

#### **IV. CEO Update**

##### **A. Network Stabilization: Progress**

Emily Spine was hired as the Managing Director of Operations and started on May 1st.

Grovider has been working with the BPS community on refining our Mission, Vision and Values. To date they have connected with over 700 stakeholders (staff, families, etc.) We are on track to finalize the mission, vision and values in June.

There are 69 current openings for teaching staff with concerns that the number will rise due to summer resignations. We continue to partner with Teach for America and have partnerships with local universities, as well as post on all the various job boards. This year we are offering a signing bonus being offered for Special Education teachers, plus a referral bonus for those who refer Special Education teachers. We are contingency planning for August right now.

The board requested to have a conversation with leadership in the June meeting about all of the things we are doing to drive scholar population.

##### **B. Network Stabilization: Metrics**

##### **C. Health & Safety**

The board reviewed an overview of health and safety/security initiatives from the 22-23 school year, paired with where we are going for 23-24. Several major themes emerged headed into 23-24:

- More consistent presence of nurses and plan for scholars with chronic medical conditions
- Improvements to food allergy policy and how we communicate/operate in a safe manner
- More training on safety and security throughout the year, not just in August
- Handouts and resources to refer back to in between trainings/emergencies
- Executing on our Threat Assessment policies

We have applied for the Department of Justice STOP school violence grant, which if awarded would be up to \$1M over three years.

The board was also provided full text of several key health and safety policies.

##### **D.**

## **Resolutions Preview**

Several policies appear on the consent agenda as we wrap up end of year sponsor compliance.

## **V. Committee Updates**

### **A. Finance**

April financials were presented. Projections now reflect the cash transfer from schools to BPS that the board approved in March.

Schools received an unexpected pot of levy funds in April, largely due to the fact that there are fewer students in Cleveland public schools who previously would have received a portion of the allocation of CMSD levy funds. The denominator is only charter schools.

The five year forecast will be another tool we use this year not only for sponsor compliance, but also to keep us in line with our goal of a balanced budget by FY27.

School boards were asked to approve the five year forecast. A motion was made by Linda Zucca and seconded by Alan Kopit. All were in favor.

School and BPS boards were asked to approve the April financials. For the schools, Cynthia Tancer motioned and Linda Zucca seconded. All were in favor. For BPS, Andrew Lee motioned and Brad Schlang seconded. All were in favor.

### **B. Governance**

Board members were asked to hold 9am - 1pm on June 30th for board retreat, as well as to provide input on the agenda.

The Governance Committee meets next week and will draft the agenda.

### **C. Academic Excellence**

Andrew McCrae provided an overview of the Academic Roadmap.

### **D. CEO Support & Evaluation**

The CEO Support & Evaluation Committee meets on June 7th. The purpose of the meeting is to hear Ralph's self assessment against his personal goals and for the committee to provide feedback and ideas for support. A Board Assessment of Ralph will likely take place this fall.

## **VI. School and BPS Boards Approve Consent Agenda**

### **A. School Board Vote to Approve Consent Agenda**

L. Zucca made a motion to Approve consent.

L. Mimura seconded the motion.

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

#### **B. BPS Board Vote to Approve BPS Consent Agenda**

Offset expected when there is a non-budgeted expense. Know exactly what those items are. Move to finance section if there is a variance.

S. Vyas made a motion to Approve BPS Consent Agenda.

P. Harris seconded the motion.

Linda, Alan, all in favor of CMSD contract mods.

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

### **VII. School Resolutions**

#### **A. Revised sponsorship contract with CMSD (CAS, CLAE, VPC and VPW)**

L. Zucca made a motion to Approve CMSD contract.

C. Tancer seconded the motion.

All in favor

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

### **VIII. Sponsor Updates**

#### **A. CMSD Updates**

Matt Rado shared his Spring Site Visit reports. Special Education compliance is an area of concern that BPS's ESE leaders are working to correct.

Two BPS schools are up for renewal in 2024: Village Prep Cliffs and Citizens Leadership Academy East.

#### **B. Buckeye Updates**

Buckeye Hope (Village Prep Woodland Hills sponsor) was not present.

### **IX. Executive Session**

#### **A. Executive Session**

There being no further business for the Breakthrough Public Schools Boards meeting, Sam Steinhouse and Danielle Eisenberg requested a motion to move into Executive Session with roll call at 6:50pm to discuss employment of an employee/or official matter. Motion from Brad, second by Cynthia, attendance taken for ES.

### **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 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
S. Steinhouse