



# Breakthrough Public Schools

## Minutes

### BPS and School Board of Directors Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Wednesday September 13, 2023 at 5:00 PM

#### Location

Breakthrough Public Schools  
3615 Superior Avenue  
3rd Floor, Suite 4403A - Bldg. 44  
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, B. Schlang, D. Eisenberg, J. Howard (remote), L. Mimura, L. Zucca, S. Steinhouse, S. Vyas

#### Directors Absent

C. Tancer, J. Johnson, P. Harris

#### Guests Present

A. McRae, C. Farmer, D. Mangen (remote), Emily Puterbaugh, H. Chama, J. Ferguson, J. Kaye, J. Zitzner, M. Barbessi, M. Johnston, M. Rado, S. Ertle, S. Wernet (remote), Valencia Kimbrough

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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 Wednesday Sep 13, 2023 at 5:02 PM.

D. Eisenberg called the School Board meeting to order at 5:02 PM on September 13, 2023

#### **B. Record Attendance**

#### **C. BPS and School Boards Vote to Approve August 9, 2023 Joint Board Meeting Minutes**

B. Schlang made a motion to approve the minutes from BPS and School Board of Directors Meeting on 08-09-23.

L. Zucca seconded the motion.

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

L. Zucca made a motion to approve the Schools Board minutes of August 9, 2023.

A. KOPIT seconded the motion.

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

### **II. Public Comment**

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

There was no public comment.

### **III. FOB Update**

#### **A. FOB Updates**

- Revenue for FY 23 is above budget and expenses are below budget
- Upcoming public tour dates are October 4 and November 15.
- Legislators will be visiting our offices in the coming months
- Approximately 40% of the 9th graders at the new Legacy High School located at the Mahatma Gandhi campus are Breakthrough Public Schools alums.
- We will begin planning for a campaign to raise funds for a gym at Woodland Hills.
- The FOB team and board members visited all schools prior to opening day
- A one-time grant of \$518,000 was approved to give each principal and Chief Operating Officer \$50K in discretionary funding to be used to recognize outstanding performers on their teams. In addition, each principal received \$2K
- The Staff Bash will be held Friday, October 6 at Punchbowl.
- High School Fair will be held on October 3rd from 5 pm – 8 pm. There are opportunities to volunteer for everyone.

### **IV. BPS Updates from NLT**

## **A. Key Topics**

- Changes in leadership - Ralph Johnson and Daniel Rice-Ali resigned since the last meeting. Danielle Eisenburg and Sam Steinhouse will serve as co-CEOs until a replacement is found.
- Strong Responsive Start - Meeting budget projections.
- Scholar Population - the number has gone down by 30 scholars. Continuing to enroll new scholars every week.
- Hiring - we are at 5 core teaching vacancies and 11 Special education services vacancies
- Transportation concerns - New rules on eligibility for buses enforced in the new year and a change of provider have negatively impacted enrollment.
- Cost-cutting measures will be implemented due to enrollment shortfalls. The focus will be on items that will materially impact the current year's financial situation without impacting academics
- 1 of 5 Schools are exceeding budgeted enrollment as of 9/6/2023
- 6 of 6 Entities are projected to end the year at or below budgeted expenditures.
- 5 of 5 Schools are meeting all Fiscal Benchmarks

## **B. NLT Board Reports**

Board Reports - materials from the leadership team were shared in the board packet.

## **V. Committee Updates**

### **A. Academic Excellence**

Danielle Eisenberg and Andrew McRae gave an update. Materials were shared in the board packet.

### **B. Finance**

Linda Zucca gave an update. She reported that the BPS Finance Committee met separately and then together with the FOB Finance Committee which went well. Continuing to focus on financial viability goals.

B. Schlang made a motion to Approve the BPS July 2023 Financials.

A. Lee seconded the motion.

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

L. Zucca made a motion to Approve the Schools July 2023 Financials.

A. KOPIT seconded the motion.

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

### **C. Governance**

- Reviewed the Amended Code of Regulations for Danielle Eisenberg and Sam Stenhouse to act as co-CEOs.
- Reviewed the Amended Code of Regulations to make Sam Steinhouse a signer.

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

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

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

L. Zucca made a motion to approve Consent Agenda of 9.13.2023.  
A. KOPIT seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

L. Mimura made a motion to Approve Consent Agenda of 9.13.2023.  
S. Vyas seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### **VII. Sponsor Updates**

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

Matt Rado was present to represent CMSD. He gave the following update;

State Report Card release day is tomorrow. The report will detail where the schools stand and how they have done in the past 2 years of academic data

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

Maureen Barbessi was present to represent Buckeye Hope, sponsor of Village Prep Woodland Hills.

- Emily Puterbaugh, a part of Buckeye's Compliance Team was introduced. She will represent Buckeye at BPS joint board meetings.
- End-of-year reports - put together end-of-the-year report for Woodland Hills. Buckeye will review and come up with areas that need help.

### **VIII. Additional Business**

#### **A. Return to General Session & Take Attendance**

#### **B.**

**All board members marked as attending above remained present after executive session.**

**C. Approve Amended Code of Regulations**

L. Zucca made a motion to Approve amended BPS code of regulations.

A. KOPIT seconded the motion.

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

L. Zucca made a motion to Approve amended School Boards code of regulations.

A. KOPIT seconded the motion.

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

**D. Board Resolution**

L. Zucca made a motion to Approve board resolution.

A. KOPIT seconded the motion.

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

**IX. 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 7:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
S. Steinhouse