



## Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas

### Minutes

#### Regular Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Thursday June 2, 2022 at 4:00 PM

**Location**

1051 Sandy Ridge Pkwy. Henderson, NV 89052

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**Posting of Agenda:** This agenda has been posted at the following locations:

Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas ("CASLV"), Green Valley Library, Enterprise Library, James Gibson Library, Paseo Verde Library, Whitney Library, CASLV website at [www.caslv.org](http://www.caslv.org), and Nevada Public Notice website at <http://notice.nv.gov>.

**Format / Procedures / Rules:** This is a notice of a public meeting held pursuant to NRS Chapter 241. Members of the public are invited to be present.

Certain items may be removed from open/public consideration if permitted or required by Nevada law. The Board may also (i) take agenda items out of order; (ii) combine two or more items for consideration; (iii) separate one item into multiple items; (iv) table an agenda item to a future meeting; and/or (v) remove an agenda item.

Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate persons with physical disabilities desiring to attend the meeting. Please contact Ms. Shepard at [ashepard@coralacademylv.org](mailto:ashepard@coralacademylv.org) at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting, if possible, so that reasonable arrangements may conveniently be made.

Please also contact Ms. Shepard if you would like a copy of the agenda and any public reference materials relating to agenda items. Those materials will also be available at the meeting location.

Those materials would provide you with greater context and clarity as to the matters under discussion.

By law, no one may willfully disrupt the meeting to the extent that its orderly conduct becomes impractical.

All items are action or possible action items if denoted as such.

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### **Directors Present**

Ann Diggins, Arlene Hayman, Brin Gibson (remote), Chan Lengsavath, Esq., Dr. Carryn Warren (remote), Elizabeth Kazelskis, Feyzi Tandogan

### **Directors Absent**

*None*

### **Guests Present**

Adem Akgedik, Amber Nhan, Andrea Shepard, CASLV Executive Assistant, Anthony Vu, Avi Pai (remote), Brettani Thomas (remote), Bridget Peevy, Cheri Johnson (remote), Denise Shaw (remote), Dr. Ercan Aydogdu, Emrullah Eraslan, Ismail Kocabiyik, John Phan, Mark Gardberg, Esq. CASLV Legal Counsel, Nick Sarisahn, Omer Arian, Paul Khoury (remote), Selcuk Ozdemir (remote), Selim Tanyeri (remote), Tyler Tayrien (remote), Vjollca Tarjan (remote)

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

Ann Diggins called a meeting of the board of directors of Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas to order on Thursday Jun 2, 2022 at 4:11 PM.

The board took a recess from 6:47 pm-7:07 pm.

### **B. Public Comment**

Two written public comments were emailed in advance of the meeting and were read at the meeting by a staff member. Ms. Cynthia Eaton, a Sandy Ridge parent, expressed concern about school safety in her letter. Ms. Jennifer Andreevski, a Tamarus campus parent, expressed concern about teacher salaries in her letter.

Ms. Diggins indicated the board will discuss school safety and teacher salaries later in this meeting. Mr. Ercan added that he investigated and could not find any evidence that a Henderson PD invitation was received and declined.

## **II. Consent Agenda**

### **A.**

**Approval of the April 5, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**

Dr. Carryn Warren made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 04-05-22.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

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

**B. Approval of the April 27, 2022 Special Board Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**

Dr. Carryn Warren made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 04-27-22.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

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

**C. Approval of the May 9, 2022 Academic Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**

Dr. Carryn Warren made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Subcommittee Meeting on 05-09-22.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

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

**D. Report of Purchases and Expenses Between \$10,000 and \$25,000 (Information)**

This is an information item. There were no questions or comments about this item from the board.

**E. NWEA (MAP) Renewal for 2022-2023 for All Campuses (For Possible Action)**

Dr. Carryn Warren made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

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

**III. Discussion & Possible Action Items- Contracts, Purchases, and Procurements**

**A. Amendment of the Copiers Agreement to Include Cadence Campus Copiers (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Vu indicated this is a 5-year agreement and a request for proposal was sent on April 16, 2022. Cadence needs 7 copiers and there is a 90-day lead time. Mr. Ercan asked Ms. Diggins for pre-approval to avoid delays.

Feyzi Tandogan made a motion to approve the amendment of the copiers retroactively.

Elizabeth Kazelskis seconded the motion.

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

**B. Technology Orders (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Nick informed the board there are two purchases. Cadence campus requires 460 Chromebooks in the amount of \$147,000. Sandy Ridge campus is requesting 120 Chromebooks, with carts, in the amount of \$38,384.

Ann Diggins made a motion to approve the technology orders for the Cadence campus in the amount of \$147,000, and in the amount of \$38,384 from XIT Solutions for the Sandy Ridge campus.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

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

#### **C. Curriculum and Textbook Purchases (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Selim indicated CASLV Sandy Ridge campus would like to renew the 8th-grade geography books, as well as two other campuses. Mr. Selim also noted that the K-5 math curriculum also requires updating. Ms. Hayman added the Academic Subcommittee met and discussed at length two different math programs to consider. A survey was also sent to the teachers for their opinion. Ms. Hayman stated the subcommittee agrees that one curriculum will be best for continuity. Reveal Math is preferred and it is significantly lower cost compared to the other curriculum. Ms. Diggins complimented the academic team for the process.

Ann Diggins made a motion to approve the curriculum and textbook purchases: New World Cultures & Geography in the amount of \$57,403.50. Reveal Math K-5 in the amount of \$569,210.36 for 6 years.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

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

#### **D. Amendment of Champions Agreement to Include Cadence Campus (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Ercan stated we are amending to add the CASLV Cadence campus. Mr. Ercan asked Champions to revise a few typos. Mr. Ercan requested additional donation dollars and they are discussing it with their headquarters.

Feyzi Tandogan made a motion to approve the amendment of the Champions agreement to add the Cadence campus and authorizes Mr. Ercan to continue negotiations.

Ann Diggins seconded the motion.

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

### **IV. Discussion/Possible Action Items-Finance/ Facility**

#### **A. Cadence Campus Construction Change Orders (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Nick indicated this is for polished concrete in the multipurpose room and it was pre-approved by Ms. Diggins. The total amount is \$38,900. This will come out of the CORE Construction contingency. Ms. Diggins asked if the board has any questions or discussions and there were none.

Feyzi Tandogan made a motion to approve the Cadence campus change orders retroactively.

Arlene Hayman seconded the motion.

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

**B. Selection of Investment broker/dealer for the non-bond reserve funds (For Possible Action)**

There were two investment advisor options presented to the board. One was given by Wells Fargo and the other was PW Provence. There was a lengthy review by the board of each presentation and various questions by the board throughout each presentation (e.g., re. worst-case scenarios, advisor/bank fees, and fiduciary obligations) which were answered by each presenter.

Ms. Diggins asked the board for their thoughts. Mr. Gibson said he is concerned about the interest rates rising, which makes it more compelling that we invest. Dr. Warren thinks it is a good idea to invest. Mr. Tandogan thinks both presentations look good. Mr. Lengsavath likes the money market account idea. Ms. Hayman said the Wells Fargo presentation was outlined well and the sweep account was most impressive. Ms. Kazelskis thought brokers had good presentations and either would work for CASLV. Mr. Gardberg asked if it is an option to use both companies. They would compete for our future accounts, over a 1 year trial period.

Ms. Diggins asked if we can amend the investment policy. Mr. Gibson said \$20M should be in a money market account. Nothing can happen before July 1st. Mr. Gibson asked about any tax issues and Mr. Lengsavath said he does not see any concern but will verify.

Chan Lengsavath, Esq. made a motion to move forward with the \$4M previously designated for investments as staggered CD's with one broker, Wells Fargo, as outlined in the presentation.

Elizabeth Kazelskis seconded the motion.

Ms. Diggins thanked both presenters and said we might be ready for what PW Provence presented in a year or two.

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

**V. Discussion/Possible Action Items-Governance/Policies**

**A. Charter Amendment (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Vu explained this is a two-fold charter amendment. The first change is for the Eastgate campus to change from serving grades K-7 to serving grades K-5. The 6th and 7th-grade families will attend either Cadence or Windmill, Eastgate families will be notified and have the choice of either campus. The second is to expand CASLV Nellis campus grades from Pre-K-8th to Pre-K-12 and add an option for dual credit.

This will be effective in the 23/24 school year. Ms. Diggins asked if we track students who go from the K-5 model to middle school. She said it would be interesting to see for K-5 versus K-8 if one model is better for students.

The vote was tabled for this item so the board can review the final proposal.

**B. Amendment of Student Handbooks (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Vu discussed the decision to have three separate handbooks moving forward. The following updates were discussed: parent code of conduct, middle school student cell phone usage, dress code (middle school girls can now wear navy blue bottoms), and discipline consequences section, in the beginning, was created.

The board discussed makeup and that it should be tasteful and appropriate. They would like boys versus girls references to be removed and that it be gender-neutral. On page 16 under footwear, a text error needs to be updated. Regarding jackets, an update will be made for students to take them off while in the classroom. The board would like possession/use of weapons to be very clear that they are prohibited on all campuses as well as fighting on campus. Dr. Warren asked that the wording regarding parent volunteering be clarified.

Ann Diggins made a motion to approve the Student Handbook amendments with clarifications and updates as discussed.

Arlene Hayman seconded the motion.

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

**C. Amendment of Employee Handbook (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Peevy reviewed the changes with the board. There was one change for sending report cards every 9 weeks versus every 5 weeks.

Arlene Hayman made a motion to approve the amendment of the Employee Handbook.

Chan Lengsavath, Esq. seconded the motion.

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

**D. Amendment of Stipends for the Additional Duties-One time Assignments (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Peevy indicated the changes made to the policy. The referral policy was successful, but a change to the financial info is requested. Ms. Hayman asked that the alumni stipend wording be revised to NV state-certified teacher. A salary scale update was also made to reflect a stipend given to CASLV student alumni that return to teach at CASLV. A dual enrollment stipend update is also requested with a limit of two per semester. It was discussed to remain competitive that the head coach and assistant head coach's salaries be increased.

Feyzi Tandogan made a motion to approve the Amendment of Stipends as presented to the board.

Arlene Hayman seconded the motion.

Ms. Diggins recused herself since her husband will be an employee at the Cadence campus.

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

**Roll Call**

Arlene Hayman	Aye
Feyzi Tandogan	Aye
Dr. Carryn Warren	Aye
Ann Diggins	Abstain
Chan Lengsavath, Esq.	Aye
Brin Gibson	Aye
Elizabeth Kazelskis	Aye

**E. Executive Director's Annual Review (i.e., performance evaluation), Strategic Goal Setting Discussion for Executive Director, and Potential Contract Renewal, with Potential Terms (For Possible Action)**

Per the NRS statute, Mr. Ercan was asked to excuse himself during this discussion. Ms. Diggins indicated this review is done annually and that she sends an anonymous survey to CASLV leadership and the board. 85% of the board responded to the survey, and the number one priority going forward is to continue managing growth. The following were a few positives that were mentioned about his leadership: good communication, dedication, and he is always responsive. It was discussed that due to the expansion the board would like to see more support/admin staff be hired.

Mr. Ercan thanked his team and community and stated we want to keep pace with the local school district on the teachers' salaries. Maybe we can give a stipend/retention bonus like we did last year if can find similar sources that they find.

The board thanked Mr. Ercan and said he has done a remarkable job. Ms. Diggins said there were some issues raised regarding discrepancies around the salary scale and the board would like to give Mr. Ercan tools to deal with this. The board would like to collaborate with Mr. Ercan and give him tools to address some of those things. The board thinks Mr. Ercan needs to grow his team as the campuses grow.

Ann Diggins made a motion to renew Mr. Ercan's annual contract with a minimum of a 10% salary increase.

Chan Lengsavath, Esq. seconded the motion.

Ms. Diggins made a second motion for the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee to work with CASLV's Executive Director, CFO, and HR Director, and recommend updates to both the Administrative staff and teacher salary scale, as well as consider new positions to accommodate CASLV's growth. Recommendations from that review will come back to the board at the August board meeting. Seconded by, Ms. Kazelskis.

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

**VI. Information/Discussion Items**

**A.**

### **SPCSA Site Evaluation Report (Information)**

Mr. Ercan gave an explanation of the site visits that were conducted in March. Mr. Gunozu summarized the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) report for the board. The SPCSA visited all campuses and specifics are in each report. The reports acknowledged some challenges and strengths that are listed in each report. Some of the challenges we are facing were listed as staffing challenges, challenging students academically, and the need for more extracurricular activities at one campus. CASLV campuses were praised for having strong leadership, a solid instruction model, and showing commitment to using state standards and science standards (NGSS). They also praised CASLV for ongoing professional development tailored to staff needs. It was also acknowledged we are providing high-quality instruction across the board. It was also mentioned that CASLV is providing a positive environment. There were no deficiencies identified in the reports. Overall report findings confirm the confidence in our program. We are collaborating with site leaders to create an action plan considering the feedback while goals for next year are set.

Ms. Diggins asked the representatives from the SPCSA if they have any comments or if they have anything they would like to bring to the board's attention.

Mr. Ozdemir, the Manager of Academics at the SPCSA said they saw exactly what they would like to see. The overall findings are very positive. After COVID-19 there are many challenges. They encourage the board to look over each report closely campus by campus. He said overall it was a great experience and he thanked the board for the leadership.

Ms. Diggins suggests the Academic Subcommittee take an in-depth look at their next meeting. Mr. Gunozu recommends each campus reviews the report and present an action plan to the Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Diggins would then like this to come back to the October 26th board meeting.

Ms. Thomas said they saw very strong leadership, advanced use of professional development, high levels of instruction, a wide range of tiered level support, and interventions to meet the needs of students academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally. She encourages CASLV to keep up the amazing work being done for our students.

Ms. Shaw encourages everyone to look at the individual reports, there are challenges and strengths for each campus. She discussed some challenges that affect all campuses such as diversifying populations with Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL), English Language Learners (ELL), and Special Education (IEP). The weighted lottery that was adopted by CASLV is already assisting and noted that in some cases there are limited seats at the campuses. CASLV is doing a wonderful job and they had a great visit to each campus.



Ms. Diggins said the thanks and appreciation go to the campus leadership staff, teachers, parents, and students at each of these schools that work so hard to achieve.

**B. Financial Update (Information)**

Mr. Paul Khoury presented the financial update through April 30th. We have spent 76% of the budget, with 83.33% of the year having passed. He noted that everything is right where we would expect it to be. There are 328 days of cash on hand. No concerns, CASLV is financially healthy and right on track.

**C. Restricted Cash investment from Bond Reserve Funds (Information)**

Mr. Ercan indicated this was approved at the last board meeting and that Mr. John Phan from the Campanile Group is here to report about it. Mr. Phan stated the board authorized an investment of 4.4M in restricted bond funds. The investments are restricted to the AA+ category investments only. There are only two providers authorized in that category which are Mass Mutual and Toronto Dominion. They have requested bids from them both. Mass Mutual has a much higher rating. Mr. Phan reviewed the annual investment earnings. He also explained the arbitrage issue which does not happen often. Every 5 years a rebate calculation is done, and then the amount must be paid back to the IRS. The annual earnings from this investment is approximately \$126,000.

**D. Windmill Campus Update (Information)**

Mr. Ismail presented the Windmill campus update. He discussed that parent engagement has created more positivity. Dr. Warren asked how many teachers are substitutes, and Mr. Ismail indicated at this time there are none, but at the start of the school year, they had 8 to 9 vacancies. They anticipate all but one teacher will be returning next year. They have increased staff engagement through staff development activities. Mr. Ismail discussed their focus on increasing their Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) percentage. They use the multi-tiered student system (MTSS) & received positive feedback from their campus site visit. Ms. Amber Nhan gave an overview of MTSS.

CASLV Windmill campus had a fun year with concerts and events. The athletic department is expanding next year. The book fair & reading week is very big at CASLV Windmill campus. They sold the most amount of books this year. Windmill campus held fundraising activities and it was mentioned that the Fun Run raised \$18k. Campus leadership focused on increasing a positive environment for students and staff. Their robotics team qualified for the national championship and raised about \$15k. CASLV Windmill campus received positive media coverage throughout the school year. Next year changes and projects were also discussed.

Ms. Diggins said she would like to see some parameters about what the board will see regarding the Multi-Tiered Student System (MTSS) and recommends the Academic Subcommittee review this.

**E. Discipline Report (Information)**

Mr. Vu presented the discipline report and stated there was some fighting, but the 4th quarter was better than the 3rd quarter. Mr. Gibson stated we do not want to disincentivize reporting, this seems like too few incidents. Mr. Vu will investigate the board's concerns.

Mr. Gardberg requested quarterly charts, and year-on-year information so the board can see how it is developing over time. Mr. Gibson would like to find a way to have an accurate representation. Mr. Vu stated admin could be underreporting. The board would like to see detentions as well. It was discussed that the proper way to report would be for the administration to enter the data into Infinite Campus as well as MTSS.

**F. Board Member Training (Information)**

This item was tabled to the next board meeting.

**G. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee (Information)**

Ms. Diggins would like a thorough campus safety review. Dr. Warren suggests distributing a survey, soliciting suggestions, and working with Metro. Ms. Diggins asked that the Finance and Facilities subcommittee consider this further, and then report to the full board. Mr. Gibson advised that 3 bids be gathered for security audits. Then get an expert to recommend specific measures.

**H. Executive Director's Progress Report (Information)**

Mr. Ercan discussed CASLV's accomplishments and important information regarding students and school clubs with the board.

- We were honored to have Lt. Governor Lisa Cano Burkhead and Clark County Commission Chair Jim Gibson as the commencement speakers at the Sandy Ridge campus senior graduation ceremony.
- Congresswoman Susie Lee joined us as the commencement speaker at the Sandy Ridge Campus 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony.
- Mr. Ercan shared photos and discussed the kindergarten promotion at Nellis AFB Campus, the 5th-grade promotion ceremony at Centennial Hills, the 8th Grade Promotion ceremony at Centennial Hills, the kindergarten promotion ceremony at Tamarus Campus, and the 5th-grade promotion ceremony at Windmill campus, and the 5th-grade promotion ceremony at Eastgate campus.
- The celebration of CASLV's 15th Anniversary was reviewed. Mr. Ercan reviewed milestones over the years as well as mentioned three staff members and two

board members that have been with CASLV for the last 15 years. Mr. Ercan presented plaques to Ms. Diggins and Mr. Tandogan for their dedication to CASLV.

- Cadence campus open house at Eastgate campus had a great turnout. Special thanks to the Eastgate/Cadence campus staff and parents for their hospitality and support.
- Mr. Ercan discussed that summer camps/courses are offered online and in person.
- The Fun Fun event at the Windmill campus was very successful.
- CASLV community is supporting a Nellis AFB staff member who has been fighting against cancer by making donations on a GoFundMe page.
- Mental Health Day - As part of Mental Health May, a mental health initiative started by Junior K.D. We hosted Michael's Angel Paws at our Sandy Ridge campus. Students were able to visit and hang out with the dogs during their lunch to relieve some stress during finals week and keep a smile on their faces for the rest of the day!
- Windmill campus soccer team got second place in the elementary boy's soccer league.
- CASLV Senior, Cole Yokoyama, was presented with two awards on May 18, 2022, during the Senior Awards honoring his completion of the CTE Computer Science Program of Study. Cole received the Computer Science Certificate of Skill Attainment and the National Workplace Skills Assessment Certification. Cole completed the sequence of three (3) years of computer science and will be taking a summer internship in this career field. The completion of the program earns him college credit and makes him stand out in his career field.
- C. Faro got first place in the individual State Bowling Championship. He received a state championship ring!!
- Tamarus Campus student Kiaan Sharma got first place in Nevada and second place in the nation at Math Kangaroo USA Competition.
- Mrs. Castro at CASLV Tamarus Campus was selected Teacher of the Month 2022 on the Mercedes in the Morning Show!
- Eastgate & Windmill Robotics Teams recognized by Mayor Debra March and the City of Henderson City Council.
- Nevada Junior Duck Stamp Contest - Five of Nevada's winners were from Coral Academy this year, with four first-place winners.
- J. Springe to represent the U.S. at the International STEM event. She's a junior at the Sandy Ridge campus.
- Two members of Quiz Bowl placed in the top 70 for individual scores at the Nationals T. Perez was ranked 48th out of the 670 kids, and D. Obstgarten was ranked 67 out of the 670 kids.
- Henderson Chamber of Commerce donated to Windmill and Eastgate campuses' Robotics Teams.

- Thanks to Trish Nash & Michael Hiltz for their generous donation to Sandy Ridge/Windmill campuses' ASTEM Club!
- Application & open seat numbers 2022-2023 school year were reviewed.
- The next regular board meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2022, at 11 am.

## **VII. Public Comments (Information)**

### **A. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **VIII. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

Ann Diggins made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Andrea Shepard, CASLV Executive Assistant