



# The Emerge School for Autism

## Minutes

### Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Wednesday March 13, 2019 at 12:00 PM

#### Location

7784 Innovation Park Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820

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#### Directors Present

A. Meyer, C. Blaize, E. Jones-Morgan, J. Perrault, M. Juneau, R. Pettit, S. Broome, S. Waguespack

#### Directors Absent

*None*

#### Directors who arrived after the meeting opened

S. Broome, S. Waguespack

#### Guests Present

B. Monjure, L. Bozard, melissa fox

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### I. Opening Items

#### A. Record Attendance and Guests

#### B. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Perrault called a meeting of the board of directors of The Emerge School for Autism to order on Wednesday Mar 13, 2019 at 12:02 PM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

M. Juneau made a motion to approve minutes from the Board Meeting on 02-13-19 Board Meeting on 02-13-19.

C. Blaize seconded the motion.

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

## **II. Finance**

### **A. Budget Update**

Forth Sector: Explained financial summary through February 2019.

S. Broome arrived.

## **III. Planning Ahead**

### **A. Next Year's Location**

JP: Discussions with EBR have progressed well. Have a professional services agreement which will go to Emerge Center board 3/20 for approval. Raises the do not exceed amount in a stepped fashion and covers school for the remainder of the charter term.

Step up amounts go from 175 to 220 to 250 over the next three years. In the fourth year we can renegotiate. EBR did not want to lock this in for four years, said we can increase the do not exceed for the fourth year.

This amended agreement is something the superintendent has approved. He can approve and sign after we do.

Option of EBR to provide a location so we can move school which construction is taking place.

EBR has offered us space at Polk Elementary. This space would allow us to serve up to 40 children. Space is newly refurbished and suitable for our needs. There is also the ability to use the library for ABA.

Aramark provides janitorial services at Polk. EBR said \$150/month rent for all the classrooms we want, but we would have to pay for reimbursement of Aramark (\$2,350/month). Total would be \$2,500 a month to rent the space and have it cleaned.

Plan for now is to sign a six-month lease and then have the right to occupy beyond that if needed. Would have at most one year available in the space (to May 31, 2020). The

lease will include information about the possibility to go month-to-month after the six months.

Ideally the new ESA building would be completed so we can move the school back to Innovation Park in December and start in new building in January 2020.

Main questions for EBR: Will we be responsible for insurance, \$900 MFP, and can we set up our own network for internet?

S. Waguespack arrived.

J. Perrault made a motion to move forward with getting lease terms from EBR.

A. Meyer seconded the motion.

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

#### **IV. Overall School Update**

##### **A. Update on School**

Bozard: Applications started in February and closed on 3/10. Lottery will be held tomorrow on a digital platform. Five students will get a guaranteed spot and then will start a waitlist. Pending space, location, staff. In the hiring process for teachers.

Waguespack: How many applications will be in the lottery?

Bozard: Fifteen as of right now with completed documentation. Many with missing documentation that will be added to the waitlist as time goes on.

#### **V. Other Business**

##### **A. Salary Schedules**

Bozard reviewed the proposed salary schedule and tiers of classroom staff.

Broome: Suggests doing away with salary scale until school is fully developed. Proposed salary scale may drive candidates away. Suggests avoiding using this for now with pending MFP.

Waguespack: We can explain to interested candidates that until we grow into our permanent spot, we do not have a finalized salary schedule.

Juneau: Suggests telling interested candidates that there is no guarantee of salary raises being a non-profit, but always attempt to do our best to do so.

Broome: Teachers will come in for mission but may get a higher offer from EBR. Maybe we can offer something to a compensation package that is an in-kind contribution (gym memberships, etc.).

Meyer: Also, 401k matches, etc. are an option in the future.

C. Blaize made a motion to table salary schedule until we are in our permanent building.

R. Pettit seconded the motion.

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

## **B. Growth Campaign Update**

Growth campaign update from Melissa Juneau: \$1.25 mil in commitments. \$100,000 verbal commitment making decision 3/14. \$300,000 pending asks out in grants which should be decided on in April. Pending \$100,000 grant to be decided on in June. Would like to close campaign in June with \$1.4 million in place to break ground.

Meeting with Bozard, Juneau, David Faulk and Buddy Ragland who are making adjustments based on recommendations to make the building larger and closer to Emerge. Rendering should be coming 3/15.

Perrault: Setting meeting with LSU on Friday to finalize what we need.

## **VI. 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 1:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Monjure

J. Perrault made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M. Juneau seconded the motion.

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