

SOAR ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

2136 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Tacoma, Washington 98405
Thursday, October 12, 2017

MINUTES

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|-------------|--|----------------|
| I. | Call to Order | 5:07 PM |
| | Present in Person: Thelma Jackson, Participating by Phone: George Meng, Andy Ferrera | |
| II. | Items for Board Action (Motion and Vote Required) | 5:07 PM |
| | a. Approval of Agenda | 5:07 PM |
| | i. Director Andy Ferrera moved to approve, seconded by Director George Meng, passed 3-0 | |
| | b. Approval of Minutes from Last Board Meeting | 5:09 PM |
| | i. Director Andy Ferrera moved to approve, seconded by Director George Meng, passed 3-0 | |
| III. | Correspondence | 5:09 PM |
| | a. No incoming correspondence for Board consideration | |
| | b. One piece of outgoing correspondence: copies of nonbonding LOI for potential school facility in Board packet, staff plan to submit and are open to feedback from Board | |
| IV. | Public Comment | 5:11 PM |
| V. | Executive Reports | |
| | a. Board Chair Report, Chair Thelma Jackson | 5:13 PM |
| | i. Provided copies of a blog: positive press for SOAR, "The word continues to spread!" | |
| | ii. Chair Thelma Jackson has tried to make contact with Pierce Behavior Health Organization to try to get help from the county to help and serve students with trauma histories and mental health needs; hoping to get a face to face dialogue with the head of organization | |
| | iii. There has been recent media interest in school choice stories in Washington State, stemming partially from the visit of Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos | |
| | b. School Leader Report, Principal Jessica Stryczek | 5:22 PM |
| | i. 184 total enrollment, with 5 students scheduled to start, and 2 more "in the works" | |
| | ii. There remains a waitlist at each grade level | |
| | iii. Applications go live for next year next week. SOAR team working and strategizing how they are going to recruit and build those numbers for next year | |
| | iv. Staffing updates – continuing to look for a teacher and support staff, in addition to the new Americorps positions | |

- v. Events- Fall Festival, Winter Bazaar, Turkey Bingo and a Movie Night are all in the works

VI. Committee Updates

- a. Finance, Nick Fradkin (EdTec) **5:34 PM**
 - i. Because meeting was moved, don't have all of the usual data, thus an abbreviated report and will send the complete report as available after the meeting
 - ii. We were able to assess the impact of not collecting employee and dependent contributions to health insurance, and started collecting November 1st
 - iii. Some good news on revenues, particularly now that the latest Growth Grant amount has hit the books
 - iv. Expenses have come in lower than expected although there are still a few that will be reflected in the more comprehensive report to be shared later this month
 - v. Cash flow remains tight in spring, particularly as facilities discussion and costs are overlaid with basic operational costs
- b. Governance, Executive Director Lihi Rosenthal **5:48 PM**
 - i. Lihi is giving the report in Anay's stead, with a discussion around Board committee composition in leadership to come at the upcoming retreat
 - ii. Chair Thelma Jackson has one new person to nominate, Reverend Gregory Christopher. More time later on the agenda
 - iii. We continue our search for new board members
 - iv. Later in agenda, there's also room to talk about the retreat, where we hope to spend time discussing governance, and clarify term dates, term limits, etc.
- c. Development Committee, Executive Director Lihi Rosenthal **5:52 PM**
 - i. Jess Andre is Seneca Washington's new Director of Strategic Engagement. She has connected with Bev
 - ii. We were interested in pursuing the New Schools Venture Fund Invent Goal but may not be a fit for their grant-making priorities
 - iii. We are working on a holiday appeal for gifts and a larger event in the spring
- d. Academic Excellence, Principal Jessica Stryczek with Teacher Sasha Tyshler and Assistant Principal Mary Lietz **5:56 PM**
 - i. Ms. Tyshler leading a PLC- Professional learning community, meeting the 4th Wed of every month
 - ii. SOAR has been awarded 2 Americorps service positions – they can work individually or in small groups to help with reading for students who require tier two (targeted) intervention; we have 20 promising resumes
 - iii. Still finishing fall suite of assessments to determine student levels and needs; Jessica to share a fuller report on testing themes in November
 - iv. October is anti-bullying month and Mary walked the board through

the Heroes in the Hallway campaign

- e. Facilities, Executive Director Lihi Rosenthal **6:11 PM**
- i. Looking at different location options, co-locating, leasing a community center, buying or leasing existing office space
 - ii. For all the school facility options, we will need a final decision and action on whether to land enrollment at 300 and the full k-5. Hoping to look at this more at the retreat so we can reach out to CSC in plenty of time.
 - iii. Due to our model, much of the budget must be dedicated to rich staffing, in comparison to some counterparts, who spend more of their budget on facilities

VII. Items for Board Discussion 6:19 PM

- a. Retreat planning
 - i. Proposed date Dec 2nd or 9th from 9-4, at SOAR –tentatively scheduled- checking with Ken for ability to attend
 - ii. More information on this and draft coming soon
- b. Committee membership
 - i. We will take this up at the retreat
 - ii. 3 committees without leadership or representation

VIII. Items for Board Approval 6:23 PM

- a. Board Member Nomination 6:28 PM
 - i. Chair Thelma Jackson formally nominated Reverend Gregory Christopher for the Board. Reverend Christopher is very involved in the faith-based leadership in Tacoma, and has long been a champion for youth and families. He is involved in the leadership of the NAACP Tacoma Chapter. He has strong connections to existing families and many more in the community.
 - ii. Director Andy Ferrera formally moved to nominate Reverend Christopher for approval at the next meeting, seconded by Director George Meng, motion carries 3-0.

IX. Adjournment 6:29 PM