

SOAR ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

1301 East 34th Street
Tacoma, Washington 98404
Thursday, December 13, 2018

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order** **5:09pm**
Present in Person: Dr. Thelma Jackson, George Meng, Beverly Grant (Arrived at 5:15PM)
Present by phone: Sam Dinning, Andy Ferrera
- II. Agenda Approval** **5:09pm**
Approved as printed 4-0
- III. Approval of November Meeting Minutes** **5:10pm**
Sam moved and George seconded, passed 4-0
- IV. Correspondence** **5:10pm**
- a. OSPI Report Card goes live this week. It contains updates on demographics and test scores. Lihi will forward the link to the Board. Review will be on the January agenda.
 - b. Commission Quarter 2 School Review occurred in late November. CEDARS data is still non-compliant, but that problem is being resolved.
 - c. Final Pierce County Health Inspection Report. We are now in compliance with all required areas.
 - d. City of Tacoma Collaboration Grant – not awarded due to technicality involving Seneca’s move to Tukwila, after applying for the grant.
 - e. Food Audit is being considered a technical assistance review. All of the suggestions that they had have been implemented. The actual audit will take place next year.
- V. Public Comment** **5:18pm**
Welcomes and introductions but no comment
- VI. Executive Reports** **5:20pm**
- a. Board Chair Report – We are continuing to work jointly with the Tacoma charter school cohort bringing the Tacoma charter schools together to help people better understand their options. There is a date already set for the WA Charters Conference in 2019 on May 3rd and 4th.
 - b. School Leader Report – Enrollment for December is 218. We anticipate a lower number in January due to several factors to include behavioral issues, family transitions and Green Dot transition news. We have posted the position of Dean of Students. The hope is to have someone in place by January. We are continuing student recruitment efforts.

We have reached the end of our first trimester and test scores were shared during parent/teacher conferences last week.

Yesterday the staff attended a Dreambox training. Dreambox dovetails nicely

with the Eureka math curriculum.

The Café (Community and Family Engagement) meeting occurred on December 12th and families were able to discuss the Unconditional Education model with the Leadership Team. The commitment was made to increase communication.

- c. STEAM update – There was a measurement unit completed and skills increased noticeably. Working on a plan with SPED leadership to ensure availability to all students. Natalie related an occurrence around creative mood improvement within the class. This week they began a unit on game design and structure.

VII. Committee Updates

5:48pm

- a. Finance, George Meng – Most of what we have been dealing with has been the transition from EdTec to PSESD. Payroll and A/P are now up and running. Reporting is still being hampered by the fact that EdTec’s model was proprietary. This hasn’t been too much of a problem with stable enrollment but will come into play if enrollment does drop in January as we will need to be able to track the financial implications of that. On the dashboard the forecast variable is showing green, but this is a bit misleading as Seneca has been allowing SOAR to hold off on paying for services until cashflow is adequate. Philanthropy needs to be worked on further. By the first of the year we should be better able to track the changes in operational expenses.
- b. Governance, Lihi Rosenthal -Bree will join us by phone at 6:15.
- c. Development, Bev Grant - Would like to meet with a CAFÉ parent to start working on future plans. Lihi will follow up.

VIII. Items for Board Discussion

6:02pm

- a. Commission Update by Joshua Halsey, Executive Director of the Washington State Charter School Commission - inquiry conducted late last month around issues of compliance in the Charter Contract. Finances were looked at to make sure that they align with regulatory bodies, and they do. Allegations of changes in curriculum were also discussed but were found to be untrue as were the allegations of financial malfeasance. The change in leadership was also discussed. Did find that Board’s Approval of the F-195 was delayed by a month.

There was a nine-minute break taken

6:12pm

Meeting resumed with items for Board approval while awaiting Bree to join in by telephone

6:21 pm

IX. Items for Board Review and Approval

6:21 pm

- a. Check Register for November 2018
George moved and Sam seconded, passed 5-0

VIII (PART 2)

- b. Green Dot Transition Updates and Next Steps

6:23pm

Lots of stakeholdering happening in preparation for the January Commission



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Meeting.

Bree joined by phone at

6:39 pm

Focus has been on researching and visiting elementary schools to see what high performing charter elementary schools look like. Application is being made for Green Dot to run an elementary school. Survey was sent out to Soar and Destiny families to see what their priorities are, as well as meetings being held. Input has been incorporated into the Green Dot model. Destiny would be asking the Commission for the opportunity to extend Destiny to include K-5 classrooms. If the expansion is not approved, then they could apply to open a new K-8 school, but this would be a longer process; even if this is approved that school could not open until the 2020-2021 school year. During break staff can continue to reach out to parents to make sure that they understand the urgency of the deadlines.

X. Adjournment

6:59pm

Next Regular Board Meeting: January 16, 2019 from 5:00-7:00pm at SOAR Academy, 1301 E 34th Street, Tacoma, WA 98404; to join by phone, Dial-In: 1-888-204-5987; Passcode: 9220108