**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EL PASO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

**August 16, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors (the “***Board***”) of the El Paso adership Academy, a Texas non-profit corporation (the “***Company***”), was held on August 16 at 12:00 pm via Zoom Video Teleconference. Matt Kerr, President of the Board, served as its chairman and presided over the meeting, and Allan Lindstrom, Secretary, recorded the minutes of the meeting.

**First Item of Business: Call to Order.** The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm, and it was determined that a quorum, consisting of the majority of directors of the Company, was present and ready for the transaction of business. The following directors were present: Matt Kerr, Soledad Bascoco, Erin Coulehan, Allan Lindstrom, and Toni Mizdal.

Staff in Attendance: Omar Yamar, Arielle Behar, and Pat Paulino

Others in Attendance: Katy Burke

**Second Item of Business**: **EPLA Open Forum**. No one was present for the open forum.

**Third Item of Business: Approval of Minutes.** The minutes for the June 28, July 19, and July 22 meetings were presented for approval. Toni Mizdal moved approval of the minutes for the three meetings, and Erin Coulehan seconded the motion. The motion was proved unanimously according to the following vote:Bascoco - Yes, Coulehan -Yes, Lindstrom - Yes, Kerr - Yes, and Mizdal -Yes.

**Fourth Item of Business. Recruitment Update**. Omar Yanar provided a report on the status of the recruitment of students. At last report, the Flagship Campus had an enrollment of 171 students with effort being directed at reaching the 200 student enrollment goal. Four hundred and sixty students are enrolled at the East Campus. Mr. Yanar reported that the high school capacity is nearly filled with some room available at the Middle School. Two refurbished school buses have been purchased to provide student transportation. Mr. Yanar anticipates enrollment will continue to increase until the end of August.

Mr. Yanar reported that negotiations between the District and the Facilities Investment Fund (FIF) resulted in an approval to provide an 8th grade at the East Campus. A 75 student enrollment cap was placed on the 8th grade. Enrollment caps for 6th and 7th grade were set at 125 students at each grade. High school enrollment caps were set at 125 at each grade level with slight flexibility if needed. The resultant East Campus enrollment is anticipated to be at the 550 to 600 student level.

**Fifth Item of Business: Finance**. Mr. Yanar introduced Katy Burke from the school finance department at Charter School Success. Patricia Paulino, Finance Director, presented the July check register for review by the board. She also provided several finance updates including cash flow, budget finalization, and Charter First Ratings. Katy Burke explained the 2020-2021 Charter First Ratings and identified possible errors in the data of certain rating categories. EPLA will review and contact TEA if corrections are needed.

Ms. Paulina indicated that due to the accelerated growth of EPLA the District has decided to outsource assistance with financial and related services to Charter School Success for the next three years. Specific assistance to be provided are in the areas of Human Resources, PEIMS, Special Programs (federal grants), accounting and training for all of the components. Cost of the services is 3.26 percent of the annual budget.

Ms. Paulina indicated that a Special Board meeting needs to be set prior to August 31 for the approval of the final budget. The board agreed to meet on August 23 at 12:00 pm in a Zoom meeting to review and approve the 2022-2023 EPLA budget.

**Sixth Item of Business: CEO Report.** Mr. Yanar indicated that the East Campus building is basically completed with a few “punch list items,” electrical installations, furniture placement, and art work to be completed. He anticipates that everything will be finished and in place by the end of September.

According to Mr. Yanar educator pay has become very competitive and has necessitated increasing pay for EPLA teachers and other staff members. He indicated that EPLA budgetary projections are supporting pay increases.

Mr. Yanar discussed the results from the 2021-2022 STAAR testing for the EPLA district which had an overall “not rated” category due to low student performance. He explained that the low number of students at the East Campus made attaining higher achievement levels more difficult. He also indicated that TEA will not be using the 2021-2022 test results for accountability purposes due to the impact of the pandemic on student learning. He enumerated plans that are being put together to address student academic performance during the 2022-2023 school year including intensive after school tutoring which will be funded through state allotments.

**VII. Adjournment**. The Board adjourned at 1:38 pm with a motion by Allan Lindstrom which was seconded by Toni Mizdal and unanimously approved by voice vote of the Board.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2022 at 12:00 pm at the Flagship Campus, 1918 Texas Avenue, El Paso, Texas.

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 Allan Lindstrom, Secretary