

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

**March 28, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors (the "**Board**") of the El Paso Leadership Academy, a Texas non-profit corporation (the "**Company**"), was held on March 28, 2023 at 12:00 pm at the EPLA Academic Revolution Center (ARCV), 5919 Brook Hollow Drive, El Paso, Texas 79925. Matt Kerr, President of the Board, served as its Chairman and presided over the meeting, and Allan Lindstrom, Secretary, recorded the minutes.

**First Item of Business: Call to Order.** The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:08 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, Toni Mizdal, Allan Lindstrom, Justin Miranda, and Erin Coulehan.

Staff in Attendance: Omar Yamar, Arielle Behar, Angel Torres, Diane Jones, Joel Rodriguez, Lorenzo Borjas, and Sergio Blanco

Others in Attendance: Kati Burke

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

**Third Item of Business: Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the January 24, 2023, February 21, 2023 regular monthly meetings and the February 24, 2024 special meeting were presented for approval. Justine Miranda moved approval of the minutes for the three meetings and Toni Mizdal seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the following Board Members: Soledad Bascoco, Toni Mizdal, Allan Lindstrom, Justin Miranda, and Erin Coulehan.

**Fourth Item of Business: Recruitment.** Included in the recruitment report given by Angel Torres and Lornzo Borjas was a summary of the current student enrollment. The District student enrollment is 599. 178 students are enrolled at the Flagship Campus and 421 students are enrolled at the East Campus. At the East Campus, 211 students are enrolled at the middle school and 388 students at the high school. Mr. Torres reviewed enrollment goals for the 2023-2024 school year. He indicated that student recruitment is proceeding very well with high student interest. Omar Yanar, CEO, shared his vision as to enrollment projections and their impact in the forthcoming years.

It was reported that the East Campus athletic teams are experiencing a very successful season.

President Kerr requested that the Proposed Salary Schedule and School Calendar listed under Business Item VI of the Agenda be moved to earlier in the meeting for discussion and action.

**2023-2024 Salary Schedule.** Diane Jones explained the process used to arrive at the recommended proposed salary schedule and responded to board questions. Allan Lindstrom made a motion to approve the proposed EPLA 2023-2024 salary schedule and Soledad Bascoco seconded the motion. The proposed salary schedule was approved unanimously as follows: Bascoco - Yes, Mizdal - Yes, Lindstrom – Yes, Miranda – Yes, and Coulehan – Yes.

**2023-2024 School Calendar.** Arielle Bejar explained the recommended school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. Toni Mizdal moved that the EPLA 2023-2024 school calendar be approved including an anticipated change in the May 7<sup>th</sup> date. Justine Miranda seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously as follows: Bascoco - Yes, Mizdal - Yes, Lindstrom – Yes, Miranda – Yes, and Coulehan – Yes.

**Fifth Item of Business - Finance.** Kati Burke, Charter School Success, presented a finance update including financial and Charter First trends with attention placed on increasing Average Daily Attendance (ADA). She also summarized EPLA financial trends including federal program updates, monthly financial status update, HR update, and PEIMS student data compliance.

Ms Burke presented an amendment to increase Fund 420 by \$216, 213 with the increase allocated to Budget Categories 34 – Transportation and 36 - Extra Curricular. The fund increase is possible due to an oversight in the reporting of PEIMS data to TEA.

Justine Miranda moved to approve the proposed Budget Amendment, and Allan Lindstrom seconded the motion. The motion was approved as indicated by the vote of the following Board Members: Bascoco – Yes, Mizdal – Yes, Miranda – Yes, Lindstrom – Yes, and Coulehan – Yes.

Mr. Kerr left the meeting and Ms. Mizdal agreed to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

### **Sixth Item of Business – HR Academics.**

**EPLA TAPAR Report.** Jose Macias, Director of Federal Programs, Special Education, and Texas School Safety provided the Board with the EPLA TAPAR (*Texas Academic Performance Report*). He explained that it is a TEA required annual comprehensive report of the District's students academic achievement as well as information regarding District goals, programs, the District Improvement Plan, and staff and student demographics and ethnicity. He summarized actions and plans that the District is putting in place to reach EPLA's student academic achievement goals.

**EPLA Data Presentation.** Sergio Blanco, presented the Board with a report on 8<sup>th</sup> grade student academic achievement in reading and mathematics based on assessments completed during Fall 2022 at both the Flagship and East campuses. Mr. Blanco, Ms. Jones, and Mr. Yanar explained plans developed by the campuses to increase student performance in both mathematics and reading. They indicated that learning strategies are currently in place and are being expanded to ensure that students are increasing their performance in reading and mathematics skill areas.

**Seventh Item of Business: CEO Report.** Omar Yanar, CEO, provided expanded information on curriculum and learning strategies that are being implemented to address student achievement in reading and mathematics in terms of special tutoring, Saturday sessions, and several strategies dealing with English Language Learner at the middle school level.

Mr. Yanar indicating that he is exploring funding sources for Phase 2 of East Campus development which will include a gymnasium, science labs, parking lots, practice fields and other needed facilities.

Board participation in fundraising projects was also discussed along with Board member visitation of campuses and classrooms.

**Adjournment.** The Board was adjourned at 1:55 pm by a motion by Toni Mizdal and a second by Justine Miranda which was approved unanimously by the Board.

The Board is scheduled to meet April 18, 2023 via Zoom Teleconference.

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Allan Lindstrom, Secretary