

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

April 18, 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 April 18, 2023 at 12:00 pm via Zoom Teleconference. 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 12:06 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, and Justine Miranda.

Staff in Attendance: Omar Yamar, Arielle Bejar, Angel Torres, Diane Jones, Sergio Blanco, and Jose Macias.

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. Approval of the minutes was tabled for consideration at the May regular board meeting.

Fourth Item of Business: Recruitment. Angel Torres reported that current District enrollment is 612 students with 432 students attending the East Campus and 180 enrolled at the Flagship Campus. Mr. Torres reported that recruitment for the 2023-2024 school year is at 115 new enrollments at Flagship and 156 new enrollments at the East Campus. Reenrollment of current students is beginning this week. Mr. Torres indicated plans to sign an agreement with the Saucedo Company to provide addresses of potential students for recruitment in specifically identified neighborhoods.

Fifth Item of Business: Finance. Kati Burke, Charter School Success, presented the March Financial Report which included Financial and Charter First trends; Program and Component Trends including a Budget to Actual Comparison Report; Cash on Hand of 103 days, Income Statement and Balance Sheet Reports; and Federal programs; HR; and PEIMS updates.

Sixth Item of Business: HR/Academics. Diane Jones presented information about the completion and submittal of the *TEKS 2023-2024 Certification Allotment Survey*. TEA requires

Board approval and submittal of the survey which assures TEA that the school district is using curricula that address the TEKS. The completed survey itemizes the curriculum, textbooks, supplemental materials, and other resources that are being used in the core learning areas. Presentation of the report at this meeting meets the requirement that the Survey be presented at a public meeting.

Allan Lindstrom moved to approve the submission of the *TEK 2023-2024 Certification Allotment Survey* and Toni Mizdal seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved according to the following votes: Lindstrom – Yes, Mizdal – Yes, Miranda – Yes, Bascoco – Yes, and Matt Kerr – Yes.

Arielle Bejar, Human Relations/Operations Coordinator, explained the need to submit the Staff Development Day Waivers to TEA. Submittal of the waivers allows the District to train staff on educational strategies that are designed to improve student academic performance during the school year. A maximum of 2,100 minutes may be waived and used for professional development. EPLA is requesting approval to submit a waiver for planned 2023-2024 staff development days.

Toni Mizdal moved to approve the submittal to TEA of the *Proposed Staff Development Day Minutes* for the 2023-2024 school year. Justine Miranda seconded the motion which was approved by Board members as follows: Bascoco – Yes, Lindstrom – Yes, Miranda – Yes, Mizdal – Yes, and Kerr – Yes.

Seventh Item of Business: CEO Report. Omar Yanar, CEO, commented on the financial stability of the District including a substantial Cash on Hand that may lay the groundwork for necessary expenditures particularly in the coming summer. Mr. Yanar indicated that he is meeting with Choice Advisors to start conversation on the Build-Out of the East Campus including a gymnasium and practice fields along with other expansion goals to be completed in 2024 and 2025.

Mr. Yanar indicated that budget planning of 2023-2024 is in process. The ratio between personnel costs and operating costs are being examined to insure that operational needs are properly funded.

Mr. Yanar explained the instructional process that is being put in place with an emphasis on expanding English instruction for all students with special attention to the instructional needs of emerging bilingual students.

Mr. Yanar was questioned as to reasons that the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) was lower at 92.0 than was true in the past. Ms. Jones responded that the lower score was an outcome of students who arrive late being coded absent rather than tardy. This problem is being corrected. Also it was noted that student absenteeism is a national problem following the

opening of schools after the COVID attendance restrictions.

A request to consider fundraising to cover the costs of professional development for principals was discussed. Mr. Yanar indicated that the current EPLA budget would cover the request. He also said that the Board needs to explore fundraising procedures and potential donors with an emphasis on significant donations as the East campus expands its building program.

It was agreed that the May General Board meeting will be held at the East Campus and will include a tour of the East Campus Building.

Adjournment. The Board was adjourned at 1:16 pm by a motion by Allan Lindstrom and a second by Justine Miranda which was approved unanimously by the Board.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to meet at 12:00 pm on May 23, 2023 at the EPLA East Campus, 2101 Joe Battle Boulevard, El Paso, TX 79925.

Allan Lindstrom, Secretary