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

**September 26, 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 at the Academic Revolution Center (ARC), 5919 Brook Hollow, El Paso, TX 79925 on September 26, 2023 at 12:00 pm. Toni Mizdal, President of the Board, served as 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 12:10 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 Manny Jemente.

Staff in Person Attendance: Angel Torres¸ Diane Jones, Miriam Martinez, Sergio Blanco, Rafael Gonzalez, and Debbie Betancourt. Staff in Attendance by Zoom: Omar Yamar, Diane Jones, and Daniel Valdez.

Others in Attendance: Tony Casas; John Johnston; and by Zoom teleconference: Jackie Hernandez, Charter School Success and Juan Alderete, Education Service Center – Region 19;

**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 August 29, 2023 Board meeting were presented for approval. Matt Kerr moved approval of the August 29, 2023 minutes and Manny Jemente seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

**Fourth Item of Business: Board Member Changes/Election**. Resignation notifications from the EPLA Board were received from Maggie Asfahani Hajii and Erin Coulehan. Tony Casas, John Johnston, and David McCracken were considered for membership on the EPLA Board. Matt Kerr moved to approve Tony Casas, John Johnston, and David McCracken as members of the EPLA Board and Soledad Bascoco seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

**Fifth Item of Business: Academics/Financials.** The following business was addressed by

the Board.

**Consent Agenda**. Matt Kerr made a motion to move the consent agenda items of Campus Improvement Plans for East Campus Middle School, East High School, Flagship Campus and the District to discussion. John Johnstown seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

After discussion by the Board, approval of the Improvement Plans was tabled with a recommendation that the plans be reviewed and updated with correct dates and testing results and brought back to the Board for consideration.

**Finance Updates**: Ms. Jackie Hernandez, Charter School Success, presented the monthly Finance Report including financial and charter first indicator trends, federal and special programs updates, budget, revenue information, and HR updates. The Board sought explanations of the Charter First Indicator Ratings for estimated ADA and actual ADA and Cash-on-Hand.

**Student Welfare**: Miriam Martinez reported on EPLA’s Wellness and Health Service programs and goals which encompass the physical and mental well-being of EPLA students and families. Nutrition guidelines, goals and education are being established along with programs incorporating physical education and physical activity. Allan Lindstrom moved approval of the Student Welfare: Wellness and Health Services Program and Manny Jemente seconded the motion which was approved unanimously by the Board.

**Request for Proposal (RFP) – Transportation**. Angel Torres explained the need and purpose of the Transportation Request for Proposal (RFP). Outsourcing transportation will save money while at the same time providing improved service.

**2023-2024 Salary Schedule Revision**. Debbie Betancourt explained changes that have been made highlighting guest teachers rates, the addition of Transportation Coordinator, a new position, and three positions that were re-titled. The Board moved and seconded acceptance of the 2023-2024 Salary Schedule Revision. The motion was unanimously accepted by the Board

**Sixth Item of Business: CEO Report**

**STAAR Accountability.** Sergio Blanco, Data Fellow, provided the Board with the

2022-2023 STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness) final scores for

each campus by grade level in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies at

grade levels sixth, seventh and eighth and a Composite Campus score. Both middle

school and high school scores are classified into the following eight categories: Did Not

Meet, Approaches, Meets, Masters, Average, Scaled Score and Letter Grade. High

School assessments were completed in Algebra 1, English 1 and English 2, and Biology.

The overall rating for the District has not been released by the Texas Education

Agency.

**Region 19 Special Education Audit.** Juan Alderete, Special Education Department

Director, Region 19 – Education Service Center explained the process that will be used to

complete an audit of EPLA’s compliance to the identification of students in need of

special education services.

**Recruitment Update.** Rafael Gonzalez informed the Board that the attendance goal

for the 2023-2024 school year is 97 percent. The attendance rate from the

beginning of the school year on July 31, 2023 through September 25, 2023 was 92.64

percent. Mr. Gonzalez outlined a substantial number of actions that are being taken to

address the discrepancy between current attendance and the District attendance goal.

These include obtaining weekly attendance reports from each school, increased

communication with parents. establishing attendance incentives and the formation of an

Attendance Committee to guide improvement in student attendance.

**Closed Session and Meeting Adjournment**. Soledad Bascoco moved to convene the Board

to closed session at 2:40 pm and Manny Jemente seconded the motion which was approved

unanimously by the Board. The Board voted to return to open session at 2:55 pm upon which

time the Board approved adjournment of the meeting.

The next general meeting of the EPLA Board of Directors will be held on November 28, 2023 at 12:00 pm at the El Paso Leadership Academy Academic Revolution Center (ARC), 5919 Brook Hollow, El Paso, TX 79925.

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Allan Lindstrom, Secretary