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

**March 26, 2024**

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 EPLA Academic Revolution

Center, 114 Texas Avenue, El Paso, TX 79901 on March 26, 2024 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 12:15

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, Joe Johnston, Justine

Miranda and Anthony Casas. David McCracken and Manny Jemente participated via Zoom.

Staff in Attendance: Omar Yanar and Arielle Behar. Y’Ymelda Herrera, participated via Zoom.

**Second Item of Business: Open Forum.** The following middle school parents were present: Mary Paz Aguilera; Victor Villapando; Jose Ramon Vega; Carmina Serna; Rita Ivette Dominguez; Yris Gonzalez; Gabriela K Lear Gutierez; and Veronica Avitia Carrera. The parents indicated concerns surrounding student transportation, food service, reduction of staff, lack

of parent communication and accessibility of administrators, consolidation of classes and class

size, athletics promised but not delivered, custodial concerns and computer accessibility.

Parents indicated their desire to be supportive and helpful to the school and are eager to

volunteer and advocate for the school and assist as the school informs them of needs. Omar

Yanar, CEO, provided information regarding the issues of concern to the parents and indicated

that follow up strategies would be implemented. The parents were thanked by the Board for

their support and their willingness to partner with the school to address and improve upon the

issues of concern.

**Third Item of Business: Approval of Board Minutes**. The minutes of the January 23, 1924 Regular Board meeting were presented for approval. Matt Kerr moved approval of the minutes. Joe Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

**Fourth Item of Business: Recruitment Update**. Matt Kerr moved to table the recruitment

report.

**Executive Session**: A motion that the Board convene into Executive Session was made by

Matt Kerr and seconded by Anthony Casas. All Board members voted in favor of the motion

and Executive Session was declared.

A motion to end the Executive Session was made by Matt Kerr and seconded by Justine

Miranda. The Motion was approved unanimously by the Board and the Board returned to

regular session.

**Fifth Item of Business: Finance/HR.** Ymelda Y’Herrera explained the Month End Board

Report of Finance and Compliance including the following items requiring Board approval.

**Budget Amendment #2** – Ms. Y’Herrera explained Budget Amendment #2 which adjusts the EPLA 2023-2024 budget to be in line with anticipated income. The Budget Amendment had been reviewed by the EPLA Finance Committee who recommended approval. Matt Kerr made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2 and Justine Miranda seconded the motion which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Good Cause Exemption** – The Board was informed that due to a lack of District

funds, the requirement of Texas House Bill 3 to employ a security officer at each

campus is not feasible. Thus a filing of a “Good Cause Exemption” is in order. EPLA has

developed an alternative security plan and has selected an EPLA employee at each

campus to receive the necessary training and provide the security protection. Matt Kerr

moved that the EPLA Board approve the submittal of “Good Cause Exemption” to the

Texas Education Agency. Joe Johnson seconded the motion which was passed

unanimously by the Board.

**Sixth Item of Business: Operations/Academics - Master Academic Calendar for 2024-2025.** Arielle Behar presented for Board review the Master Academic Calendar for the 2024-2025 School Year. Matt Kerr moved approval of the Master Academic Calendar for 2024-2025 and Justine Miranda seconded the motion which was approved unanimously by the Board.

**Seventh Item of Business: CEO Update.** Omar Yanar shared planning and administration oversight as the District moves forward and addresses the potential for growth and student achievement.

**Eighth Item of Business: Approval of Amended Superintendent Offer Letter**. The Superintendent offer letter was amended by unanimous Board approval.

**Adjournment**. The EPLA Board adjourned at 2:55 pm on a motion by Matt Kerr and a second by Soledad Bascoco. The next general meeting of the EPLA Board of Directors will be held on May 28, 2024 at 12:00 pm.

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Allan Lindstrom, Secretary