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

**October 1, 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 October 1, 2024 at 12:30pm. Toni Mizdal, President of the Board, served as chairman and presided over the meeting, and Arielle Bejar recorded the minutes.

**First Item of Business: Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:37. A quorum, consisting of the majority of directors of the Company, was present and ready for the transaction of business. The following board members were present: Toni Mizdal, President; Soledad Basoco, Vice President; Matt Kerr, Treasurer; Tony Ymelda Y’Herrera and David McCracken participated via Zoom.

**Staff in Attendance:** Omar Yanar, Arielle Bejar, Rita Monsivais

**Guests in Attendance: Jose Gallardo**

**Second Item of Business: Open Forum**

Board Member Introduction

The Board welcomed Jose Gallardo as a new member. Mr. Gallardo was nominated by Matt Kerr. Justine Miranda seconded the nomination and it was unanimously approved.

Discussions included potential initiatives, such as a financial award for graduating seniors and the organization of a board retreat to foster team building and strategic planning.

**Third Item of Business: Approval of Board Minutes**

Ms. Arielle Bejar asked to table the minutes so the board could approve them all and “everything would be caught up.” The minutes were tabled for the next meeting.

**Fourth Item of Business: Recruitment Update**

Arielle Bejar provided an update on recruitment strategies and enrollment trends in Mr. Borjas’s absence. The board requested an attendance report broken down by campus for the next meeting. Recruitment goals were clarified by campus 190 at Flagship and 600 at East campus. The amount of movement from the East Middle School was concerning and it was explained there has not been enough focus and creative effort to recruit middle school. There needs to be more follow through on the east campus in regards to recruitment. The importance of parental engagement and targeted publicity through social media was emphasized to achieve enrollment goals.

**Fifth Item of Business: Finance and HR Updates**

Arielle Bejar presented a resolution to the board to make changes in AskTed to keep information current. John Johnston moved to approve the resolution Matt Kerr seconded. The motion carried.

Ymelda Y’Herrera presented financial updates, including a resolution to the board outlining Investment Policies to invest funds into TexPool and money markets. Ensuring compliance with state requirements, i.e. Public Funds Investment Act. Operating officers were named and responsibility of the organization going forward including 90 days cash on hand and moving money as necessary according to what is stated in the Public Funds Investment Act. John Johnston moved to approve the investment policies. Tony Casas seconded the motion. The board approved unanimously.

Ymelda Y’Herrrera presented the August financials and budget updates, focusing on sustainability and addressing shortfalls including miscoding from a previous back office support and missing budget line items. Ms. Y’Herrera also reviewed the CharterFirst report and where EPLA is anticipated to fall, at an 89. Matt Kerr moved to approve the August Board Report and the CharterFirst Projections. David McCraken seconded the motion.

**Sixth Item of Business: Academic and Operations**

The Board discussed academic performance at the Eastside campus. New leadership and instructional strategies were introduced to improve outcomes, with an emphasis on literacy and consistent teacher coaching. Personnel changes, including new hires and role adjustments, aim to stabilize and enhance the academic environment.

**Seventh Item of Business: CEO Updates**

Omar Yanar shared updates on organizational improvements and upcoming plans, stressing the urgency of improving academic outcomes by maintaining scheduling effective teacher coaching sessions, enforcing persistent and consistent walkthroughs to make teachers more effective to attract and retain students. The discussion concluded with optimistic notes for future growth.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm on a motion byToni Mizdal and a second by John Johnston. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on November 19, 2024