

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF EL PASO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
NOVEMBER 19, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of El Paso Leadership Academy, a Texas non-profit corporation (the "Company"), was held at El Paso Leadership Academy Academic Revolution Center (EPLA ARC) at 114 Texas Avenue, El Paso TX 79901, on November 19, 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 12:37pm. 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, Matt Kerr, Tony Casas, Justine Miranda and Jose Gallardo.

Board member David McCracken and YYY Consultants Ymelda Y'Herrera, Amanda Habrun and Juan Gallardo attended the meeting via Zoom.

Staff in Attendance:

EPLA staff members present were Omar Yanar, Rita Monsivais, Lorenzo Bojas and Arielle Bejar

Guests in Attendance:

There were no guests present at this meeting

Second Item of Business: Open Forum

Mr. Lorenzo Borjas discussed student recruitment and enrollment and was optimistic about the numbers. "We are doing well" and the numbers indicate that enrollment is "above budget", to say that enrollment numbers are higher than what was anticipated in regards to the budget.

Ms. Toni Mizdal indicated that a secretary needed to be appointed on the board of directors and after initial discussion, Mr. Jose Gallardo was nominated by Matt Kerr. Mr. Kerr motioned to approve the nomination and the nomination was seconded by Mr. Tony Casas. The nomination was unanimously approved and Mr. Gallardo was appointed as the secretary for the board of directors.

Third Item of Business: Approval of Board Minutes

Ms. Arielle Bejar presented board meeting minutes for the following meetings: June 18, 2024, July 22, 2024, August 27, 2024 and October 1, 2024.

Matt Kerr moved to approve the minutes. Tony Casas seconded the motion. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

Fourth Item of Business: Executive Session

Fifth Item of Business: Operations and Academics

Financial Award for Seniors

The board members discussed the proposal of the Financial Award for Seniors for 2024-2025. Toni Mizdal brought forward the proposal and requirements for a student to apply for a financial award that the board of directors will fundraise for. Any amount raised would be matched by the CEO to present as the full award. Matt Kerr raised that proof of enrollment should be provided by the student to receive the award with the understanding that the award be used to assist with needs for school.

Matt Kerr moved to approve the "Aspire Higher Award" for EPLA Seniors with proof of enrollment and understanding of how funds can be used. Toni Mizdal seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Memo to the Board Members: Waiver for Missed School Day - EPLA East 10/14/2024

Arielle Bejar presented a memo to the board requesting approval from the board to submit a waiver to having instructional and operating minutes put back in the calendar due to the missed school day on October 14, 2024 due to safety concerns following a fire at East campus. Mr. Yanar requested that an audit of the master schedule be done to determine if a waiver is necessary since there are usually surplus minutes in the master schedule. Ms. Rita Monsivais, confirmed she would get with the principal to confirm the minutes.

Tony Casas moved to approve EPLA submitting a waiver for a missed school day from TEA. Justine Miranda seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Sixth Item of Business: Finance

Ymelda Y'Herrera presented monthly financials for the month of October to the board. The summary of the monthly financials was largely positive with EPLA meeting CharterFirst Indicators and with 83 days cash on hand. Finance also reported good yield from interest by placing funds in a money market account. The projected CharterFirst Rating as of this report is 91 for 2024. The board asked some clarifying questions regarding funds in dyslexia and safety.

Results from Charter First - Public Hearing

Ymelda Y'Herrera presented the Charter First Rating for EPLA for 2024 based on prior year data. Finance detailed how the public hearing was advertised and was able to report that EPLA received a grade of 82, an "above average" rating.

Matt Kerr moved to approve the October Monthly Finance Report and results from CharterFirst for 2024. Tony Casas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Seventh Item of Business: CEO Updates

Leadership Change at East

Omar Yanar reported that the Leadership changes at East have had a really positive impact. "Mr. Montoya has worked hard to turn east around." Mr. Yanar also informed the board that the focus at East will be academic.

Lawsuit against TEA to Correct EPLA Academic Rating

Mr. Yanar informed the board about the status of the lawsuit against TEA to correct our academic rating. Calculations were run on scores from the previous academic year and the results showed that EPLA would have received a "D" not an "F" which would invalidate the "strike" against EPLA. Mr. Yanar also clarified the "3 strike rule" as it applies to charters to be "3 strikes in a row" not in the life of the charter. Mr. Yanar also informed the board that the goal is for EPLA to resolve this by February and assured the board that the goal is to become an "A" rated campus. Mr. Yanar explained the data approach to students and testing going forward in order to target students to help achieve this goal along with setting expectations for any change necessary to achieve being an "A" rated campus.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:17pm on a motion by Matt Kerr and a second by Tony Casas. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on January 22 ,2025.