

**Crescent Leadership Academy
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 16, 2013
4:30 pm @ Crescent Leadership Academy
4300 Almonaster Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70126**

To join the by phone:
Call-in toll number (US/Canada): 1-408-792-6300
Access code: 574 239 253

Board Members:

Present: Marlin Ford and Judge Helen "Ginger" Berrigan (via phone)

Absent: Steve Hartman, Anthony Doty, Jim Letten

Others Present:

Tracy Joseph, CLA Superintendent/ ROP Education Director

Chauncey Nash, CLA Principal

CJ Bower, ROP CFO

Nancey Carter, ROP Education Business Manager

Joshua Johnston, reporter from *The Lens*

Proceedings:

I. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 4:35 (CST) by Judge Berrigan.

II. Approval of April Agenda

Judge Berrigan moved to approve the Agenda; Marlin Ford 2nd the motion. Agenda approved.

III. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Judge Berrigan made the motion to approve the March 19, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes. Marlin Ford 2nd the motion. March Meeting Minutes approved.

IV. ESP Reports

a. Type 5 Charter Progress Report – Chauncey Nash/Tracy Joseph

Dr. Nash indicated that they just finished LEAP testing: 43 students.

Took 10 students to the Hornets/Clippers game.

Current enrollment 205; still doing recruiting efforts.

Titan Fest this Friday (4/19) with representatives from Xavier University, Del Gado Community College and businesses/agencies in the area.

b. Financial Report –CJ Bower

Income Statement: Revenues are down \$65K the month for two main reasons. Just approved to bill lead Behavior Mentor at the end of February and back-billing from July to the i3 Grant. Next month the i3 Grant revenue will be much higher to make up the year-to-date deficit.

Title I and Title II revenue has not been booked; waiting for final approval and will be billing out \$104K this month.

Judge Berrigan asked what Title I and Title II revenues are for. Ms. Bower stated they are Federal Grants and Title II is for training Teachers and Principals. Title I is for neglected children and allows for remediation for students who are behind in their education.

Judge Berrigan wanted to know how funds will be used since the school year is almost over. Ms. Bower indicated that the money has been used throughout the school year, but has not been billed as of yet.

Personnel costs are over budget based on spend out of the i3 Grant which has to be 80% or more for administrative salaries. Administrative salaries will be right on budget next year.

Judge Berrigan wanted to know why the administrative expenses were overspent and the instructional expenses were underspent. Ms. Bower indicated that it was anticipated \$250K of the i3 grant would be spent prior to July during start up. Another budget will be submitted in May for the Board to review and approve.

Instructional Salaries were based on population of 200 students so not all instructional people have been hired, nor has a vocational instructor been hired. That money will roll over into next year's budget when those positions are hired.

Teacher stipends will begin to be reduced once Summer school happens as teachers will be paid from that budget item.

Athletic stipends will be paid out during the next month or two based on the number of athletic events held at/for the school.

Ms. Joseph indicated there is a speech therapist working with students that will be paid through the Professional Services line item.

Direct Student care line items cover all the basic items such as rent, utilities, equipment, etc. About \$3,500 positive for the month.

School supplies and instructional supplies overspent year to date, but will be made up as all the purchases have already been made.

Operating Expenses are favorable due to lower enrollment. General liability insurance also came in lower.

Student transportation is and will continue to be over budget due to the purchase of an additional bus to transport students, especially the expulsion students.

Ms. Bower also explained that administrative expenses would be reimbursed by an i3 grant the school is waiting to receive.

c. Activities Calendar- Dr. Chauncey Nash

Dr. Nash will send an email to the Board outlining testing dates. Ms. Joseph indicated that the staff appreciation event was a great success and really helped CLA recognize the hard work and dedication of their staff.

Ms. Joseph also said they are working with LDOE for the Special Ed funding discrepancy, which is over \$100,000 worth of funding.

Ms. Joseph and the Dean of Students, Charmain Carter, will be at the 2013 LA Education Summit and Ms. Joseph is hoping to speak to them more about clearing up the funding issue and bring the information back to the Board.

Additionally, Ms. Joseph wants the Board to consider fundraising opportunities as CLA needs to have more technology in the classrooms to provide better services for our students and teachers, and to pull in more resources to provide students and to attract additional staff.

CLA will also be attending another recruitment fair on 4/27 to recruit teachers for next year.

Judge Berrigan asked the percentage of expulsion students versus choice students. Ms. Joseph responded that it's roughly 60% expulsion and 40% choice. Judge Berrigan asked if it was holding steady, but Ms. Joseph indicated there will continue to be more expulsion as the school year progresses.

V. Board Updates

Judge Berrigan said that she is still in conversation with Melissa Sawyer from the Youth Empowerment Project that works with at-risk youth. Ms. Joseph indicated we need a total of seven members to be in compliance with BESE.

Board approved the collection of funds by and from staff to buy a gift for Mr. Beverly who is in the hospital.

VI. Follow up Items

- a. Update on Dillard Discussions

Ms. Joseph indicated the discussions are still in the infancy stages to potentially occupy the building on the Dillard campus. However, she clarified that Dillard has not assented to the partnership and Ms. Joseph will follow up with them to continue developing the relationship.

Joshua Johnston, from *The Lens*, posed several questions. He asked for a differentiation between expulsion and choice students. Ms. Joseph indicated that choice students are those that come through the OneApp application system and expulsion students are those who are expelled through RSD expulsion office. Ms. Johnston also asked why there was a discrepancy with the SPED student funding. Ms. Joseph responded that they were unclear on why and that is the reason she will be following up with their staff. Ms. Bowers suggested they have a different number because they funded for the number that was projected, not on the actual number. Mr. Johnston asked how many members the Board has, Judge Berrigan indicated there are five members, and then requested a list of the members who were in attendance and who were not.

Judge Berrigan moved to adjourn the meeting, Marlin Ford 2nd the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM CST. The next meeting is Tuesday, 4/21/13 via Webex.

Minutes scribed by Nancey Carter for Anthony Doty.

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