

**Crescent Leadership Academy Governing Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 19, 2015
5:30 PM-6:30PM
at Crescent Leadership Academy
2701 Lawrence Street
NOLA 70114**

Board Members Present: Judge Ginger Berrigan, Maurice Lightfoot, Sean Ransom, Rachael Coe, Brooks Barnes, Jim Letten, Tommy Maginnis, Sean Trimber, Susan Hutson

Board Member Call-In: Maurice Ruffin

CMO Present: Nick Dean, Tracy Joseph, CJ Bower, Nancey Carter

Others Call-In: Mike Higgins-Schulman, Lopez & Hoffer, LLP

- I. Roll Call at 5:45pm
- II. Review and Approval of Agenda and January 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Susan Hutson made a motion to approve; Sean Trimber 2nd the motion, all approved so moved.

- III. Mike Higgins- Schulman, Lopez & Hoffer, LLP

Presentation about firm and how board/school could be represented. Mr. Lightfoot indicated that the board would review all presentations thus far and make a final decision based on their review.

- IV. ESP Reports
 - Superintendent Report – Tracy Joseph

Discussion about walk through and closing out of Schwartz building with the RSD. Completed majority of the CAP, including all the good faith repairs and expenses CLA incurred based on the roof leak.

Spoke about Almonaster and walk through with MSpace. They issued a punch list items totaling roughly \$40K. Because the issues are not completely resolved, they want to charge us for additional rent. Legal Counsel has been obtained as many of the repairs should be normal wear and tear.

Mr. Letten asked if there are any other school models that illustrate a precedent for normal wear and tear, but Ms. Bower indicated that no matter how the lease is written, interpretation usually sets the precedent. Consequently, legal representation is necessary to continue discussions.

- Type 5 Charter Progress Report/Activities Calendar – Nick Dean

Board indicated they want to see a monthly letter that includes student successes; sports schedule; general updates; SPED; homeless; academic strategies; etc. Board members stated they want to see raw data; doesn't need to be formal, just need talking points when speaking to community about the school.

Finished last in the basketball tournament, but we have a relatively small team compared to teams CLA plays.

Roughly 167 students; ADA is about 70-80%; attendance trend goes up during testing and has trended upwards since August. This upward trend is attributed to due diligence in contacting parents via phone and home visits, letting them know how students are doing in school.

Academic rigor is improving which is another reason for increased attendance; students are incrementally increasing in reading levels. Upwards of 60% of students passed EOCs.

- Financial Review and Audit Results– CJ Bower

CJ discussed the audit and how it is required by law to complete. Results are given to LDOE and the results contribute to the overall grade of the school.

Highlights: Independent Auditor's Report Opinion; grade from the last year was low because the end of year revenue was less than 2-6%.

Governmental Single Audit was conducted based on grant funding received during CLA's first year. The audit went very well with no negative findings.

Financial statements (Balance Sheet, Income Statement) reviewed and line items discussed, including how revenues are obtained from 10/1 and 2/1 counts. No categories are over, except for small overage of general liability insurance. Expenses higher at the beginning of the year because of the start-up of the second campus at Schwartz. Transportation cost is also very high. Ms. Barnes to look at her contacts for a potential alternative.

New budget based on new student count, expulsions and SPED count funding was presented and reviewed. Discussed security and transportation expenses. Board had no questions on the budget. Mr. Maginnis made motion to pass the budget presented; Mr. Letten 2nd; all in favor, so moved.

V. Board Updates and Action Items

Judge Ginger Berrigan, founding member of Crescent Leadership Academy, has resigned from the board due to personal obligations. Board expressed gratitude for her leadership and commitment. Judge Berrigan will continue to be involved in creating opportunities for CLA students, including an annual Mock Trial.

CMO to put together spreadsheet of attorney costs (include Susan Warner-Juernegen) for the legal firms that presented to the board; board will choose after reviewing.

- Subcommittee Designations detailed by Mr. Lightfoot and board members accepted.
 - Governance Committee: Maurice Lightfoot, Maurice Ruffin, Jim Letten, Rachael Coe

The governance committee assumes the primary responsibility for matters pertaining to and in accordance with the Bylaws of the school board.

- Fundraising Committee: Brooks Barnes, Susan Hutson, Sean Ransom

The Fundraising Committee assumes primary responsibility (with the aid of the board and CMO) for creating a fundraising plan for non-grant funds to support the school's mission.

- Finance Committee: Tommy Maginnis, Sean Trimber, Maurice Lightfoot

The Finance Committee works with the CFO and monitors implementation of the approved budget.

- Fundraising idea presented by Dr. Ransom to have a food truck rally with a band.

VI. Future Agenda Items: Board members to bring at least one fundraising idea to the next board meeting to be incorporated into the fundraising plan.

VII. Public Comment: no members of the public were present.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Minutes transcribed by Nancey Carter for Maurice Lightfoot. ###