

**Crescent Leadership Academy Governing Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2015
12:00 PM-1:00PM
at Crescent Leadership Academy
2701 Lawrence Street
NOLA 70114**

Board Members Present: Maurice Lightfoot, Sean Ransom, Rachael Coe, Brooks Barnes, Tommy Maginnis, Sean Trimber, Maurice Ruffin

Board Members Not in Attendance: Jim Letten and Susan Hutson

CMO Present: Nick Dean, Tracy Joseph, Nancey Carter

I. Review and Approval of Agenda and February 18 Meeting Minutes. Maurice Lightfoot made a motion to approve the meeting minutes; Rachel Coe 2nd; all in favor, so moved.

II. ESP Reports

- Superintendent Report – Tracy Joseph

- Almonaster Update (Discussion/Action)

Tracy Joseph discussed negotiations with MSpace to settle on building damages at \$28K.

Board asked CMO to negotiate further, if possible, to bring the total down \$4K to deduct normal wear and tear. Mr. Lightfoot indicated it's up to the board to ensure where the funds are coming from and if they want to litigate or agree on the settlement amount of \$28K or negotiate down for another \$4K.

Board made a motion to give attorney authorization to approve \$28K, but to pursue a lesser amount (split difference); Ms. Coe made the motion, Maurice Ruffin 2nd the motion; all in favor, so moved.

Ms. Joseph indicated that the funds would have to come from General Reserve monies; Mr. Lightfoot made the motion for authorization of funds to be drawn from the General Reserve Account; Tommy Maginnis 2nd; all in favor, so moved.

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

Students are in the process of testing; staff is dedicated to finishing out the year focused and strong.

Charter renewal points have been adjusted from 60 to 50

SPED went up about 10%

Student enrollment currently at 157; 2/1 count was 162

Choice student enrollment might be opened up in a limited capacity; discussions are still ongoing with the RSD. Additionally, discussions are ongoing to add 6th graders as an option for the 2016-17 school year.

RSD is also discussing utilizing CLA as a special population school; once the vision for that model is worked out, RSD will bring everyone to the table. The goal is to place students at the school best suited for their learning and behavior needs.

- Financial Review– CJ Bower

Ms. Bower was unable to call in, but Ms. Joseph discussed budget shortages and funds still needing to be pulled down from IDEA, TITLE I AND II. For the rest of the school year, CLA will need to add 5 students each month to offset shortages

III. Board Updates and Action Items

- Ethics Training and Tier 3 Forms need to be completed before May 15. Nancey Carter to send out link for both.

- Subcommittee Updates

Fundraising Committee is moving forward with strategizing and formulating a plan for Titan Fest.

- Fundraising Ideas from the Board

Maurice Lightfoot-Golf Tournament to help build a scholarship fund; asked that the 501c3 for Friends of CLA begin being worked on.

Board agreed to choose Shulman and Hoffman as the preferred law firm for service vendor, including Adam & Reese as secondary.

IV. Future Agenda Items: next board meeting on Thursday, April 16 @5:30pm.

V. Public Comment: none; no one from the public via phone or in person.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 1pm.

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