



MINNESOTA EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

Meeting of the Board of Directors
Minnesota Early Learning Academy, Inc.
Minutes of Thursday, October 8, 2015

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Early Learning Academy, Inc. (the Board) was held on Thursday, October 8, 2015, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. (CST) at the Minnesota Early Learning Academy, 6717 85th Ave N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445.

Directors Present:

Deb deVries • Chairperson
Jackie Gaare • Treasurer
Brienna D'Angelone • Member
Kit Wilhite • Member
Donna Swedin • Member (phone)

Also Present:

Mary Stafford • President and COO, Distinctive Schools
Jim Stafford • Director of Operations, Distinctive Schools
Dean Kephart • Minnesota Executive Director, Distinctive Schools
Susan Loomis • Director of New School Support, Distinctive Schools

I. Call to order

Deb deVries called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. CST on October 8, 2015; a quorum of directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

II. Approval of the agenda

Deb deVries asked Board members to review the Agenda for accuracy and content and the Agenda was unanimously approved with no modifications.

III. Review and Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Deb deVries asked Board members to review Minutes of the Board's previous meeting and the previous Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.



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IV. Board Chair Report - MDE Identified Official with Authority

The Board reviewed the annual board schedule and approved all dates and set the meeting time from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. The addition of a conference call number was added. All is posted on the MELA website.

The Board reviewed the resignation of Dr. Joe Scherer, it was moved and approved.

Deb deVries was unanimously appointed as the new Board Chair.

The Board designated Jennifer Mitchell (Director) as the new MDE Identified Official with Authority to replace Dr. Scheer.

Mary Stafford and Dean Kephart will put together board training recommendations for the November board meeting.

V. Finance

Board Member Jackie Gaare informed us that all banking is now through Western. We now have an \$80,000 line of credit through Western as well. Distinctive Schools paid all start-up costs totaling more than \$200,000. MELA will begin to pay that back as state funds begin to take place.

Another budget note as that the addition of bus aides will take our transportation higher. It was noted that the bus company has been difficult to work with.

VII. Budget

Jackie Gaare indicated that there would not be a budget review at this meeting.

VIII. Authorizer Report

No Authorizer Report was submitted for Board review at this meeting.

IX. Distinctive Schools Report

Ms. Stafford provided an explanation about the transition in the School Director from Whitney Frisch to Jennifer Mitchell. The board was supportive of this change. The resume of Corinne Anderson was presented to become a classroom teacher and allow Brienna D'Angelone to be freed up to serve as an instructional coach. The board approved the offer to be extended.



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X. Community Outreach

Dean Kephart reviewed the plans for the official opening of the school on October 9th. He also laid out plans for our involvement in Give to the Max Day. The board was supportive of both strategies.

XI. New Business

Deb deVries asked whether there was any new business that the Board should be considering at this meeting. Kit Wilhite reminded the board of the E4 Conference on November 3rd. It was moved and seconded that the Board adjourn. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. (CST).

Respectfully submitted,

Designated Recording Secretary

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I served as the duly designated temporary recording secretary for the Minnesota Early Learning Academy Inc., non-profit Minnesota corporation, and that the foregoing Minutes reflect the events of the October 8, 2015 Board of Directors meeting of Minnesota Early Learning Academy Inc.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand this 8th day of October, 2015.

Temporary Recording Secretary