



Asheville P.E.A.K. Academy Board of Directors / Meeting Minutes

2.21.2021 6:00-7:30 pm

Via Zoom Video Conferencing:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5738435845>

Board Members: *Tiffany Iheanacho (Chair), Libby Kyles (Vice Chair), Mychal Bacoate (Treasurer), Catherine Lordi (Secretary), David Robinson (Director), Gene Bell (Director), Joe Lordi (Director)*

Present: Tiffany Iheanacho
Libby Kyles
Joe Lordi
David Robinson
Catherine Lordi
Mychal Bacoate

Absent: Gene Bell

Additional Persons Present: Raul Saldaña (School Leader), Dwight Mullen (potential new board member)

I. Opening and Consent Agenda: The regular meeting was called to order by Tiffany Iheanacho at 6:02 pm with quorum of six (6) out of our seven (7) members.

Mychal Bacoate motions to approve the Minutes for 1.17.21 and the Agenda for 2.21.21. L Kyles seconds the motion. All unanimously agree, carrying the motion to approve Minutes for 1.17.21 and Agenda for 2.21.21 as presented with no amendments.

II. School Leader's Monthly Report – Presented by Dr. Raul Saldaña

A. Enrollment and Recruitment: Up 61 applications this month for a total of 115 (62 K, 21 in 1st, and 29 in 2nd). Roughly 70% of those applications are children of color. There has been a lot of contact with churches and community centers to distribute brochures and fliers this month and more outreach with Latina media outlets. Because of high interest in Kindergarten, there is a possibility of adding another Kindergarten class, or perhaps using a multilevel classroom for 1st and 2nd. Catherine Lordi reminds Dr. Saldaña that amendments need to be approved by DPI through Ashley Bacquero before our lottery on March 15.

B. Curriculum and Instruction: Raul is signing up for the Orton Gillingham training in order to provide teachers with some training and provide ongoing support. The curriculum team is working on the professional development plan before school begins and has nailed down our selected curriculum. We have secured figures from curriculum vendors for cost.

C. Teacher Recruitment and Hiring: 35 qualified teacher applicants, 33% of those have been offered a Zoom interview. The next step will be having them create a lesson plan and video themselves delivering the lesson. To increase candidates of color, postings have been to HBCU to alumni, faculty career center at HBCUs, Handshake job board for college students. Mars Hill has also shared posting with their Bonner Scholars which has led to several qualified candidates..

D. Operations: Got in touch with Southside Kitchen, they are still interested in helping us provide our nutritional services. UNCA catering services is another possibility. Both organizations are working on a menu and costs. We are also in talk with ACS in terms of partnering for transportation and nutrition. Will hopefully have figures we can propose this month.

Needs from the Board: Dr. Saldaña asks for support connecting with individuals and developing a list of names of potential donors for our fundraising team.

III. Financial Report

A. Current Financials: School Leader delivered detailed account of our financial position, including revenue in from grants, donations, and federal revenue (ACCESS). We are still waiting on a large withdrawal from ACCESS, there has been a delay. We have three bank accounts with First Citizens – for safety, operations, and specific donations. Financials were presented for the month of Feb, and Tiffany Iheanacho asks for an adjustment to be made in the future to report on the previous month (so January financials will be presented at February’s meeting, etc) and add revenue in and out to cash flow.

B. Year 0 Budget: Raul Saldaña provides an updated budget for our fiscal year 20-21. Amendments have been made to account for salary of office staff to facility rent (to potentially be spent in May/June). The Dogwood money will become our balance to be used for start-up funds. Recommended having a scheduled transfer of funds back to the Dogwood account once ACCESS funds are received. Tiffany Iheanacho asks that the expense sheet name the federal funds and also the other expenses under the funds spent.

C. Community Fundraising Discussion: \$55,000 recommended for the Community Fundraising Goal for our 2020-2021 Planning Year. We currently have roughly \$54,290. As a board, it should be required that each member give financially to support our mission each fiscal year. Board members who have not yet given to PEAK pledge donations in the amounts of \$200 (Libby Kyles, Mychal Bacoate, Tiffany Iheanacho) and \$110 (David Robinson). Thus, we have met our fundraising goal for the 2020-2021 year.

Mychal Bacote motions to approve the amended budget presented for fiscal year 2020-2021. Catherine Lordi seconds the motion. All unanimously agree to approve the amended budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee – No Discussion (see notes in agenda)

B. Fundraising Committee – No Discussion (see notes in agenda)

C. Marketing Committee – No Discussion (see notes in agenda)

D. Facility Committee – Discussion about the property search, Joe Lordi will be contacting the owner of Brevard Rd site in the morning. Benefit is that it is move in ready, already has the certification for educational occupancy, ample extra space for wrap around services we could possibly sublease. It could allow us to be accommodating to our children's needs and flexible. It is a very nice space worthy of our children. Concerns were voiced regarding partnering with Asheville City Schools because of current reputation in the community. Tiffany Iheanacho proposes giving a maximum possible lease to owners of Brevard Rd; propose a 5-year lease. Joe will keep everyone updated, with a goal of having something nailed down by the weekend to present to the board for a vote.

V. New Action Items:

New Board Member Discussion and Vote

The board has received interest forms, resumes, and had conversations with two individuals interested in joining the Asheville PEAK Academy Board of Directors. Candidates area aligned in their mindset to our mission and bring skills and interests to the table that are current areas of need on our board.

David Robinson motions to bring on Dwight Mullen as a board member. Mychal Bacoate seconds. All unanimously agree. Dwight Mullen is invited to serve as a board member to Asheville PEAK Academy. Motion is carried.

Mychal Bacoate motions to bring Susan Shanor as a board member. David Robinson seconds. All unanimously agree. Susan Shanor will be invited to serve as a board member to Asheville PEAK Academy board.

Tiffany Iheanacho will reach out to both candidates regarding their election to our board and plan for an onboarding with the Executive Committee.

VI Announcements:

- All board members need to attend the RTO conference on February 24th on Meeting the Needs of All Students. The registration has closed, please email Raul if you have not registered and need to. It will begin at 8:30 until 2:30. All members need to also sign up for the DPI session "What Next?" on March 24th at 8:30.

VII. Public Comments

No public community members present at this time.

VIII. **Closing.** M Bacote motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm. L Kyles seconds the motion. All six board members present unanimously agree to adjourn the meeting at 7:37.