



Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
1.10.23  
27 Balm Grove Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28806

**Board Members: Gene Bell (Chair), Robby Russell (Treasurer), Susan Shanor (Secretary), Dwight Mullen (Director), Andy Barnett (Director), Kathey Avery (Director), Kerry Freidman (Director), Gordon Grant (Director), David Robinson (Director)**

**Present:**

Gene Bell  
Robby Russell  
Susan Shanor  
Gordon Grant  
Kathey Avery (arrived at 5:45PM)  
Andy Barnett  
Kerry Friedman

**Absent:**

Dwight Mullen  
David Robinson

**Additional Persons Present:** Brenda Tipton, Comesha Minto, Malik Anderson, Sheriff Quentin Miller, Marlon Minto

**I. Opening and Quorum:**

The regular meeting was called to order by Gene Bell at 5:35 PM with six of nine members present.

**II Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**III. Safety Discussion with Sheriff Quentin Miller**

Ms. Wynn's primary concern is to make sure PEAK is safe for our children. She made the Board aware of numerous safety concerns related to the homeless shelter at the church. Problems include: breaking into PEAK buses, breaking into the boiler room, needles on PEAK premises, knife found on the bus, homeless person threatening suicide in the PEAK lobby in front of students. Sherriff Miller offered his assistance. The resolution is that deputies with canines will search the school premises before and after school. The administrative team expressed that parents appreciate seeing the police presence. Gene instructed Kidada to report all incidents to the sheriff's office rather than reporting to the church to ensure that appropriate police action

is taken. The administrative team will have Sherriff Miller's app on their phones to insure appropriate and swift police reaction whenever any incident arises. Sheriff Miller instructed Gene and Kidada to ensure that a current MOU between the Sherriff's office and PEAK is on file. In closing Sherriff Miller stated that his goal is to make PEAK as safe as possible. The Board thanked Sherriff Miller for his commitment to the safety of our students.

#### **IV. Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes**

Kerry Friedman moved to approve the 1/10/2023 agenda, Robby Russell seconds. All unanimously agree and motion carries to approve agenda. Kerry Russell moves to approve minutes from the 12/13/22 Board Meeting, Gordon Grant seconds. All unanimously agree and motion carries to approve minutes. Robby Russell moves to approve the 12/13/22 Closed Meeting Minutes, Kathey Avery seconds. All unanimously agree and motion carried to approve closed sessions minutes.

#### **V. School Leaders Report**

Gene Bell led off the discussion by commending Kidada on the pep rally and school spirit with enthusiastic engagement by students, staff, and teachers. Ms. Wynn commended Ms. Minto on how smoothly testing is progressing.

Malik made a presentation on the need to send himself and Lesha Gilliam for Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) training on January 25th. Cost is \$1200 per person. After being trained, Malik and Lesha will be qualified to train the entire staff on de-escalation techniques and can train the EC staff and administrative team on protocols for physical restraint. The Board gave unanimous approval for Malik and Lesha to attend the training. Gene asked that Malik provide a report at a future Board meeting in regard to training teachers and staff receive. Gordon Grant offered to research whether his CPI certification is current.

Marlon Minto presented the revised website design and PEAK messaging. It was unanimously approved by the Board with the request that he bring it "live" as soon as possible to replace the current website. The Board thanked Marlon for the excellent presentation.

Kidada gave an enrollment update. Currently PEAK has 85 students; 39 new students are enrolled in the PEAK lottery. Kidada has set a goal of enrolling at least 104 additional new students for the 2023-24 school year. Kidada identified places where she intends to hold community engagement events. Gene asked Kidada to email list and requested that Board members sign up to attend community engagement events.

Kidada reported that with Board approval DPI will allow PEAK to accelerate and add 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2023-24 school year. Kidada presented the following rationale: PEAK already has eight students who have expressed interest in PEAK for next year; PEAK needs to be able to compete with other charter schools where students are applying to move after 4<sup>th</sup> grade to secure a charter slot before middle school; PEAK can accommodate more families with K-5 since most parents prefer to have all their elementary children in one school due to transportation,

simplicity, etc. The Board voted unanimously to add the 5<sup>th</sup> grade if PEAK has enough interest to fill a 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom.

Since we do not know what our student count will be next year Susan Shanor emphasized the importance of PEAK taking advantage of Dogwood's offer to write grants for us proved Kidada brings grant opportunities to Dogwood. Kidada has a list of potential grants and, following the meeting, Gordon offered to work with Kidada to identify those that are most relevant and timely to pursue.

#### **VI. Financial Report (Robby Russell)**

Robby Russell reviewed the budget report for 12/1/22 – 12/31/22. He also announced that efforts continue to reduce meal, storage, and copier expenses.

#### **VII. Fundraising (Susan Shanor)**

Susan Shanor announced that she anticipates that community fundraising for the fall will end up at about \$325,000 against a goal of \$250,000. Andy Barnett agreed to connect a person from his staff with Brenda to help educate her on DonorPerfect.

#### **VIII. Facility (Andy Barnett)**

Andy and Gene will meet with church personnel to discuss safety concerns and the economic cost to PEAK of bus break-ins.

#### **IX. Marketing/Communications (Gordon Grant)**

Gordon Grant committed to assist Kidada in community engagement events.

#### **X. Additional Announcements**

In response to Board requests Susan Shanor announced that Tom Miller will lead a planning session, primarily to identify goals to insure PEAK gets 10 year renewal of its charter next year. Susan will circulate possible dates as soon as she receives from Tom. The Board agreed that it does not need to approve substitute teachers who are within budget.

#### **XI. Closed Session**

There were no items for a closed session.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

Kerry Freidman makes the motion to adjourn. Andy Barnett seconds. The meeting adjourns at 7:25PM.