

**MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD, LEF OF
WEST BROWARD COUNTY, INC.
IMAGINE CHARTER SCHOOL AT WESTON**

**MEETING MINUTES
Date: August 15th, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sandoe called the meeting to order at 5:54 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Patrick Sandoe, Erika Royal Barnes, Veronica Diaz, Radhika Paul, Priscilla Prado Stroze, Jhanet Garcia, Don Francey and Jason Montan. The following persons were also present: Paul Eichner, (attorney), Nadine Laham, (Principal), Jacky Vernon (Region Director Imagine Schools), Theresa Sumner (Assistant Principal), Karen Gross (Business Manager), Elsa Forthmuller (Finance Director) .

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Ms. Laham confirmed public notice was given via the website, email blast and posted on the front door of the school.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Francey made the motion to accept the June 13, 2016 Elementary and Middle School Minutes. Seconded by Mrs. Prado Stroze. All ayes 8-0.

Mr. Francey made the motion to accept the July 11, 2016 Elementary and Middle School Minutes. Mrs. Prado Stroze seconded the motion. All ayes 8-0

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE AND NEW BUSINESS:

- Character Ed program being implemented - Elementary and Middle. Mrs. Sumner is on the committee. All teachers must participate. Bucket Fillers, positivity and empathy. focusED is the theme this year with emphasis on Character ed and educational excellence. Trying to get Rachel's challenge program in school. An anti-bullying program. Costs about \$4,600 - would need to fundraise to meet the cost.
- Playground update - In process of replacing playground surface and equipment. School contributing \$10,000 toward the cost. The PTP fundraising between last year and this year to raise the remaining \$60,000 needed. The process is running into a few snags with permits and surveys. Once that is all worked through the playground area will be off limits for a couple of weeks while construction takes place.

- Trade Days/Imagine Forum - Teacher's returned to school this year and had 3 training days. One with two Imagine regions (6 schools) with the CEO of Imagine, curriculum specialist and testing people from Imagine. And two days at Imagine Broward. These 3 days will be traded for 3 training days on the calendar this school year.
- Security update - Raptor program will track volunteer hours, send out emergency notices (weather/rainy day dismissal) All families and volunteers encouraged to sign up on Raptor asap. All volunteers will have to pass through Raptor before entering the school. Cost approx \$3,000.
- Spotlight on Middle school science - some changes ahead.
 - all 6th grade to take Earth Science with Advanced and gifted students being offered Honors Earth Science for HS honor grade. No EOY exam.
 - 7th grade Life Science or Biology for HS honors grade
 - 8th grade will offer Biology and bring in Honors Chemistry for HS credit. they will have an EOY exam.
 - This past year 48 students took Biology and were 100% proficient. All scored a 3, 4, or 5. Same scores for Geometry. Algebra was 98% proficient. Pushing the students to do their best and reach their highest potential. Imagine Middle was the first school offering HS credit in 6th grade.
- With so many HS level classes, students can leave Imagine with many of the HS required courses behind them.
- Imagine has a reputation for sending qualified students to high schools. Spanish 2 students have placed into college level spanish at Cypress Bay
- Last year had 5 Kindergartens grades, this year will have 6. Will also have 6 first and second grades. Elementary is expanding now that middle has stabilized.
- We have more than 100 new students this year. Push to start the school year off reinforcing policies, character ed etc.
- Admin is inquiring if a fundraising schedule can be provided so that families can plan their giving over the course of the year. The PTP has a general idea of the fundraising activities that they will do this year. The don't like to give goals out' but can give a schedule to allow people to budget.
- Uniform grant - Grant application was received way ahead of time so school is hoping to receive the \$10/student as we are a uniform school
- Final Amended Budget for 2016-2017
 - Ms. Vernon discussed that with the fund balances, a designated fund can be created and do a one time carryover to use the money for teacher/staff retention (\$100,000)
 - Also, designated a fund for lease negotiation expenses

- Fund balances are like a reserve to use for capital expenditures, repairs.
- No designation of fund balances this year. Need to be one school for a year and see how the budget goes. Can consider this approach next year. Will stay as a fund balance even if not designated.
- In-Unison tabled to next month
- Handbooks
 - Safety - BCSD emergency preparedness manual and our safety codes are now aligned with the district.
 - Parent/Student and Employee handbooks pretty much mirror each other.
 - Employee handbook includes dress code and character issues to help address concerns of parents.
 - question was raised about more significant consequences for cell phone abuse/use.
 - Mrs. Prado-Stroze had some changes to the handbooks
- Honor Roll certificates will be handed out in the classrooms except for end of year.
- Financial report of charter school (bill) - This bill requires that the school's financial report be provided to parents and include the average amount of money expended per student in the school. - will be posted on school website
- Allegiance to the Flag - the bill repeals the requirement to conspicuously post notice of the right not to participate and instead provides that students shall be informed of this right.
- The Paiz group made their proposal.
 - Mr. Eichner and Mrs. Kreitzer both agree that the proposal not quite what we were looking for. Need broker agreement. Mrs. Kreitzer has marked up the initial offer and forwarded the revisions including staggering payments and timeframes.

REGION DIRECTOR: JACQUELYN VERNON –

- retention Bonus discussion - see above

BOARD ACTION

- All In for Excellence letter - Mrs. Prado-Stroze motioned to authorize Mr. Sandoe to revise last year's letter with updates as discussed and finalize. Mrs. Paul seconded the motion. all ayes 8-0
- The Letter should include background facts for why we are introducing the program.

- We pay rent and district schools do not .
- Our teachers make less money.
- It should also include what we are asking for: the amounts (\$500/child \$1000/family) tax deductible & voluntary
- Crowd rise information
- We are not one great school!
- Teachers worked longer and harder for our kids. Difference in salaries with the district 95% of the All In monies raised last year went directly to teachers and staff.
- Mrs. Garcia Motioned to authorize Mr. Sandoe to sign the elementary school budget with amendments as discussed (without the fund balance designations) Mrs. Prado-Stroze seconded the motion. All ayes 8-0
- Mrs. Garcia made the Motion to accept the middle school budget and authorize Mr. Sandoe to sign it. Seconded by Mrs. Prado-Stroze. All ayes 8-0
- Mrs. ~~Royal~~ Barnes made the motion to approve the video script as amended. Mrs. Prado-Stroze seconded the motion. (all ayes 8-0)
- Mrs. Barnes motioned to approve the safety, parent/student and employee handbooks with amendments. Seconded by Mrs. Garcia. All ayes (8-0)

PUBLIC INPUT

- Cell phone policy - will it be ^{uniformly} enforced by all middle school teachers
- Parents are happy that Mrs. Sumner will be taking on discipline for MS

BOARD INPUT

- Mr. Francey thanked the PTP
- Mrs. Diaz resigning from the Board effective next meeting. We will be in need of replacing the treasurer

NEXT BOARD MEETING

September 20, 2016

Meeting adjourned 9:28pm

Rene Barnes