

**MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD,
LEARNING EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION OF
WEST BROWARD COUNTY, INC.
d/b/a IMAGINE CHARTER SCHOOL AT WESTON**

**MEETING MINUTES
Date: March 21, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Francey called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Erika Barnes, Don Francey, Sylvia Allen, Jhanet Garcia, Radhika Paul, Priscilla Prado Stroze, and Jason Montan. The following persons were also present: Paul Eichner, (attorney), Nadine Laham, (Principal), Jacky Vernon (Region Director Imagine Schools South Florida), Theresa Sumner (Assistant Principal), Susana Padilla (Curriculum Specialist), Karen Gross (Business Manager), and 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

Mrs. Barnes made the motion to accept the February 21, 2017 minutes. Mrs. Prado Stroze seconded the motion. All ayes 7-0

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE AND NEW BUSINESS:

- PK/PreK registration, March 20th: tried to alleviate the camping out by having registration on Monday. The camping started on Thursday. Asked them to leave but they didn't. Contacted the police department before the lining up started and they said that they would not disperse them. Registration process went very smoothly, all spots filled. Mr. Francey commented that the change from mid-week to end week maybe did not work.
- Staff appreciation last week – "best ever." Glowing reviews from the teachers and the parents.
- Jason Bryant CEO's visit tomorrow. CEO of Imagine Schools. Will be speaking with teachers and students. The Board was upset that they did not have more notice to plan and have some plan in place for meeting the CEO and maybe showcase the school. The Board felt that there maybe have been a missed opportunity. Ms.

Vernon said she will give more notice next time, if actually given advance notice of the visit herself.

- Elementary SGA Book sale – April 4th - \$1/book. Donations from students. This is a fundraiser for a charity.
- Middle School Flag Football and sports season end. Not a lot of kids go out, but when they play, they play with heart. We win very few games, but they learn a lot of great sportsmanship, skills and develop relationships. Pizza celebration on Thursday.
- End of 3rd Quarter ends this Thursday and Planning/Trade Day on Friday (March 23 and 24). Middle School grades go into the District on Friday.
- Weight Watchers begins for 12 weeks for staff starting on March 23. Have at least 15 people who have volunteered to join WW. Parents can join if they want. It's \$156.
- 3rd grade FSA ELA March 28 and 29: 3rd grade takes ELA early b/c this is the retention year for 3rd graders. District has offered schools, as an alternative assessment, the STAR test for kids who don't perform up to standards on the State test.
- Middle School Movie Night – March 29th – Beauty and the Beast at Weston 8
- Spring Break – week of April 10-14
- Bi-lit parent meeting last week was well-attended by staff and parents. 18 teachers and staff and a lot of parents. Heard that we need to make some changes. The amount of homework was a hot issue (overbearing for some, okay for others).
- Talent show – April 6th. Auditions were last week. Approx. 90 students tried out. There will be an opening and closing act for everyone and then individual acts.
- Governance Training renewals. A few of us need to renew our governance training. We are out of compliance until we do our training. If a Board Member is out of compliance then an email to that effect was sent to that/those member(s). Please act on this as soon as possible; we need to do this now; otherwise, there will be issues with the charter if not completed.

REGION DIRECTOR: JACQUELYN VERNON

- a. Inspection of Campus –started yesterday. Ms. Vernon told Mr. Paiz, who wanted to see the inspection report, that we don't have one yet. When it comes in, a copy will be given to Mr. Eichner and Mr. Francey. The scope of work of the inspection includes such areas as the doors, windows, roofs, etc. The company started yesterday with exteriors. They will be coming back on Friday, a planning day, when there is no school, to do the interiors. Maybe Thursday afternoon, too.
- b. If you are here in the morning, Mr. Bryant will speak to you; he is a very kind man. He wants to observe classrooms. Anyone who wants to come and meet him, would be most welcome.

- c. Promising practices are ongoing even though the school cannot get another character award for five years. There is more to what is going on than what we see in the newsletters: such as essay writing contests, spelling bees, etc.
- d. The assignment of assets and liabilities was discussed.

LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

- No updates. Waiting on the completed inspection report to be in hand to further negotiations.

MAY MEETING DATE

- Due to conflicts in schedules the May meeting date will need to change from Tuesday to Monday, May 15th, 2017. Mrs. Prado Stroze made the motion to move meeting to May 15th at 5:30. Mrs. Paul seconded the motion. All ayes 7-0.

BOARD VACANCY DISCUSSION

- There was a conflict of interest with one of the candidates who should be notified formally of the conflict. The Board wants to allow the selection process to go for one more month. Prospective candidates should be apprised of the monthly meeting requirements when they apply to be on the Board. Motion to extend the process because we went from 12 candidates to 2 (and one had a conflict of interest). Some on the board didn't want to extend the deadline. But the rest seemed to want it.

- Mrs. Barnes made the Motion to table the board vacancy vote. Mr. Montan seconded the motion. The ayes: Mr. Francey, Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Allen, Mr. Montan and Mrs. Paul. The nays: Ms. Garcia and Mrs. Prado Stroze. Mrs. Prado Stroze made the Motion to direct staff to re-open/extend the process of selecting board member for one more month, to inform them of the time requirement and send to the incoming VPK families, if possible. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion. All ayes 7-0.

BUDGET UPDATE

- There has not been an update from the District with the February FTE so Mrs. Forthmuller is not able to amend the budget. Hopefully all the information will be in and she will be able to have an amended budget by the May meeting.

BOARD ACTION

- Letter from James McFadden regarding Note Analysis and Outstanding Note Balance to be signed.
- Final draft of the Assignment of Assets and Liabilities for execution
- Mrs. Prado Stroze made the Motion to accept the December 20, 2016 letter from James McFadden and authorized the Board chair to execute same. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, all ayes. 7-0
- Mrs. Paul made the Motion to accept the assignment of assets and liabilities and attachments A and B if Board is in Agreement. Motion to approve the assignments and liabilities and authorize Mr. Francey to sign as the Chair was made by Mrs. Paul. Mrs. Prado Stroze seconded the motion. All ayes. 7-0

- Mrs. Paul made the Motion to immediately send "All In for Excellence" letter (BELATEDLY). Mr. Montan seconded the motion. All ayes. 7-0
- Mrs. Prado Stroze recommended that at the May meeting the Board will assess where we are and decide how to spend the money - with regard to the "All In" funds. Mr. Montan seconded the motion. All ayes 7-0.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Mrs. Chess expressed her concern over a threat made to her daughter by another student. The student was suspended, but was not expelled under District guidelines. Should another offense occur, then it can go before the District again for further evaluation. Mrs. Chess feels that he is still a threat to her student and does not feel comfortable having her daughter around him. She is considering removing her child from the school.

BOARD INPUT

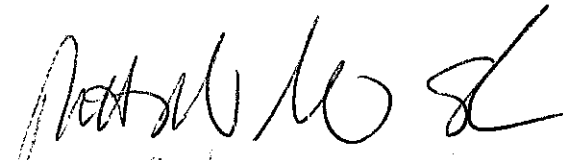
- Mrs. Paul inquired about how the school will support Ms. Breitbart during the Teacher of the Year process. Ms. Laham informed the Board that the school hired a videographer to tape Ms. Breitbart next week. They will follow the rubric prescribed in the TOY application.
- Mrs. Allen addressed the "All-In-for-Excellence" initiative, reiterating that this method was how the Board rewarded the teachers last year. SCORE cannot do it and the PTP cannot do it. There was lengthy discussion regarding the funding and lack of push for it. It was suggested that a "Remind" text go out with a link to the "All In" letter and that the letter should be distributed to all Imagine families as soon as possible.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

April 18th, 2017 at approximately 5:30 P.M.

Meeting adjourned

Mr. Francey adjourned the meeting at 7:28 P.M.


4/18/17