



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

**MEETING MINUTES
Date: November 20, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Francey called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Don Francey, Erika Royal Barnes, Priscilla Prado Stroze, Sylvia Allen, Jason Montan, Pascale Royal, and Scott Beck. The following persons were also present: Paul Eichner, (attorney), Julie Klahr (attorney), Nadine Laham, (Principal), Jacky Vernon (Region Director Imagine Schools), Rod Sasse (Director Imagine Schools), Karen Gross (Business Manager), Elsa Forthmuller (Finance Director), and Theresa Sumner (Assistant Principal).

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. Montan made the motion to approve the October 9th, 2017 minutes. Ms. Royal seconded the motion. All ayes.

Mrs. Prado-Stroze motioned to table item #4. Mr. Montan seconded. All Ayes.

Region Presentation by Rod Sasse

- Mr. Sasse gave an update/overview of Imagine Weston with following highlights:
 - Imagine Weston is an A school with Faculty and staff that are second to none.
 - Imagine Weston has a 15 year Charter that goes to 2024
 - Imagine Weston was awarded a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School from the Department of Education.
 - Imagine Weston was a 2014 National School of Character and continues to receive numerous Promising Practices awards.
 - Imagine Weston has consistently been one of the highest scoring schools for FSA.
 - There are considerable wait lists for most grade levels, including the annual 'camp out' for Pre-K
 - The building lease is up in 2020 with two five year options to renew. The lease inflates every year by at least 1.5% - possibly more.
 - Revenue trends of FTE increase fluctuates between 2-4% annually

- A complete study of the facility was finalized and shows the facility in decent shape for a 20 year old building although it does need some TLC.
- Currently, documents dictate that at the end of the lease the property be returned to the landlord in broom clean condition.
- Mr. Sasse suggests that at this point we go back to the negotiating table; investigate bond financing (he has spoken to Charter Capital and Building Hope); and investigate lease with the option to purchase the building.
- Various back and forth conversation between the Board, Mr. Sasse and Mr. Eichner regarding the Financial Advisor viability.
- Mrs. Prado-Stroze made a motion to authorize Mr. Eichner to identify up to 3 financial advisors with experience working with charter schools and financing for charter schools and their resumes/CVs for the December Meeting. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. All ayes.

REGION DIRECTOR: JACQUELYN VERNON –

Ms. Vernon participated in the budget committee meeting and a facilities committee meeting.

Ms. Vernon and Ms. Laham have been moving ahead on parking issues. They visited Sagemont and Temple D'or Dorim. Sagemont does not dismiss at the same time as Imagine Weston. Temple D'or Dorim does have some space available but not sure what the possibilities could be with them. They are still looking in to a not for profit fundraiser to make presentation.

Mrs. Prado-Stroze motioned to take item #4 off the table and go back in order. Mr. Montan seconded the motion. All ayes.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. a. Contracts
 - i. Biscayne Air – A/C – clarification on what minor and major repairs are. If act of God, \$125/hour. Regular after hours, \$85/hour.
 - ii. Mrs. Prado-Stroze made the motion to accept the contract. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. All ayes.
- b. Teacher/staff retention discussion. It was suggested by Mr. Beck that we wait to have this discussion after discussing the budget and facilities meeting review.
- c. Highly Effective Teachers - Pay for Performance. Different than teacher retention. This is based upon a state plan. Some of the coding for ESE/ESOL was not correct and resulted in a short in FTE funding. There is time to identify the errors and recode in order to qualify for the correct funding amount.
- d. Character Initiative to Pay it Forward – we're starting a chain reaction of kindness. Students have signed up, esp. middle school student to be on the

~~F.O.R. (Friends of Rachel) club to promote kindness in classrooms. Share your story with kindness cards. "Choose Kindness" campaign, hope it goes viral~~

e. Operation Gratitude – collected almost half a ton of Halloween candy and toothbrushes to send to military overseas. Kids wrote over 1000 cards and letters to veterans in V.A. hospital and current military members

f. UNICEF – collected on Halloween.

g. "Wonder" the movie – last Saturday, filled 3 screens at Weston 8 of 4-5 grade families. The child who is the subject of wonder had facial deformities and many surgeries, who did not go to school until 5th grade.

h. Teacher and Administrative evaluation systems – doing same eval systems as last year. Marzano for teachers, admin is Florida Consortium of Public Schools. Will be uploaded in Charter Tools by December 17th.

i. Renovation of Parking lot – reserved funds for that. Construction will start this weekend. On Monday, a lot of the parking lot will be rough and ready for re-paving.

j. A+ Funds – every year, so far, if you are an A school, get extra money from state, \$100 per FTE enrolled. We are an A school from last year's FSA tests. Economic sustainability meets and staff votes how to use money (3 voting choices: equal share to all returning staff members, \$10K to school and equal share to all returning staff members, none of the above). Last year and this year, vote was to give equal amounts to returning staff members. It was a clear majority vote.

k. Thanksgiving Drive – just completed for sister school Imagine North Broward. Received email letter from N.L. family saying that we made their Thanksgiving and prior to the basket did not know how to get Thanksgiving dinner for her family. We saved a couple of baskets for people who work here every day (custodial staff).

l. Rachel's Challenge

m. Mayor's Challenge – it's free this year. There are two schools ahead of us. very low sign up so far.

n. ChildNet – collecting toys for kids who have less than us.

7. Budget Committee Report - Ms. Garcia not here to report. Mr. Beck gave a brief overview.

1. Overview of how the school looked in September for projections because of kink in miscoding issue, so we have a deficit. There will be an update once funds are

received after the correction is made. Also, looking at how much programs bring in vs. how much they cost. Noted that Pre-K is a good source of capital and noted that we should try to make space to expand it. Currently have two Pre-K classrooms now.

8. Facilities Committee Report - Basically the same as the notes

PUBLIC INPUT

- None

BOARD INPUT

- Mrs. Prado-Stroze inquired as to the status of the uniform contract as was advised that it is still being worked on.
- It was clarified that Pay For Performance is a raise, not a bonus, Once given it becomes the base salary if the school is not in deficit.
- Mr. Eichner has given notice that he is leaving the Board. Julie Klahr is the attorney he is recommending and she is present today. Ms. Klahr gave synopsis of her qualifications. Once selected to represent the Board, Ms. Klahr will provide a retainer agreement at the next meeting.

BOARD ACTION

- A+ money for staff – Mrs. Prado-Stroze made the Motion authorizing distributions of A+ funds and approving the process. Mrs. Royal seconded the motion, all ayes.
- Teacher and Administrative evaluation system – Mrs. Prado-Stroze made the motion to authorize Mr. Francey to sign the template to be used for teacher and administrative evaluation system. Mrs. Allen seconded the motion. All ayes.
- Retention of staff plan – Would not be for those newly hired. It's for retention. Currently that's 62 people. Mr. Beck made the motion to approve payment of talent retention payment of \$500 bonus for returning staff members. Mrs. Prado-Stroze seconded the motion, all ayes. Funds not in budget – to be paid from fund balance.
- Highly Effective Teacher compensation – Mrs. Barnes made the motion to authorize payment from fund balance of the \$16K for highly effective teachers to make up the 1.5% deficit. Mrs. Prado-Stroze seconded the motion, all ayes, that includes \$16K to cover deficit for 1.5% for those teachers.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Governing Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 19th, 2017 at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.