

*Don Francey*

1/16/18

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
Date: December 19, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Francey called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Board members present: Don Francey, Erika Royal Barnes, Priscilla Prado Stroze, Sylvia Allen, Pascale Royal, and Radhika Paul. 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 (Vice 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**

Ms. Prado-Stroze made the motion to approve the November 20th, 2017 minutes as amended. Ms. Royal seconded the motion. All ayes.

Mrs. Prado-Stroze motioned to table item #4. Ms. Royal seconded. All Ayes.

**Region Presentation by Rod Sasse**

- Mr. Sasse followed up from last meeting regarding possible bond funding opportunities. One of the groups that he has spoken with, Building Hope, was able to attend tonight's Governing Board Meeting and give a presentation. The other group, Charter Capital, was unavailable to come to this Board meeting.
- Mr. Ralph Mestre and Mr. Rich Moreno from Building Hope gave a detailed presentation on what their company does and how it relates to Imagine Weston's situation.

## **REGION DIRECTOR: JACQUELYN VERNON –**

- Ms. Vernon has inquired with Temple D'or Dorim about the possibility of renting space and maybe some parking. They have not been able to connect, but she hopes that in the new year they will be able to resume discussion.
- As of now, Sagemont is not at full capacity, but they are expecting larger enrollment than last year. She did inquire about the possibility of the use of their parking lot at night for events and the Sagemont principal was amenable to Imagine Weston using it.
- Ms. Vernon relayed Happy Holiday wishes to all and thanked the Board for their support.

## **PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE AND NEW BUSINESS:**

- Mayor's Challenge was December 10, 2017. The rules have changed this year to include free participation. Imagine Weston won the challenge for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Should receive a \$5,000 check in February.
- Ms. Laham secured approval from the District to have Early Release on Friday, December 22, 2017.
- ChildNet: Each homeroom had a name of a child and age and collected money and went shopping as a class. Array of wonderful toys being picked up tomorrow. Staff also contributed and had a child that they shopped for.
- Imagine Weston did collect food for the Harvest Drive and provided food for many many families and gift cards for families at Imagine North Lauderdale. Most appreciative at Imagine North Lauderdale.

## **Farewell to Mr. Eichner**

- A warm farewell to Mr. Eicher thanking him for all his service over these many years. Ms. Vernon and Ms. Laham presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

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

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

- None

## BOARD INPUT

Ms. Klahr gave feedback on the financial advisor and bond funding matters at hand:

- Financial advisor info received from Julie Klahr, who provided two financial advisors. Both are people that she has worked with (Larson and Ford). Represent local government agencies and have done a number of bond deals. The two that she sent are two that she has worked with before and that she trusts. In working with various individuals with their teams, it's "smooth as ice." There is another individual that she knows of but has not worked with them, so does not feel comfortable recommending at this time.
- Ms. Klahr explained that the role of financial advisor is to look at where we are and determine best course of action to move forward, if possible and then decide.
- Enterprise Florida is statewide funder that is supposed to stimulate economic growth in the state of Florida. Statewide issuer will likely be a faster option.
- Ms. Klahr can recommend bond counsel to us because she knows how they operate. And they work in pre-formed teams.
- The Board needs to speak to and look at more than one organization. Her recommendations would be to shop the financing. Anyone will do that. Find the best rate/package. That is the role of the financial advisor. The Financial Advisor will put together the team and will bring everyone to the table - the working group.
- The Board will want to get temperature gauge on whether Landlord wants to sell. Should we even proceed with hiring a financial advisor? We can show that we have some "financing options" and see what he can do. The Financial Advisors are paid if moving forward with transaction.
- The Operating agreement with Imagine has terms. It would have to be looked into, and make sure it's competitive.
- All-In-for Excellence – Ms. Barnes opened for discussion the future action for All-In. New Year – new encouragement from all sources: Governing Board, Administration, Teachers and Support Staff.

## BOARD ACTION

- Ms. Barnes made the Motion to approve the retainer agreement for Julie Klahr, Esq. and authorize Mr. Francey to execute the retainer agreement. Ms. Prado-Stroze seconded the motion, All Ayes.
- Ms. Barnes made the Motion to ask Mr. Moreno to provide new models based on issues discussed during the meeting and authorize Mr. Francey to communicate

with him to figure out the models. New models to be presented at next board meeting. Ms. Prado-Stroze seconded the motion, All Ayes.

- Ms. Prado-Stroze made the Motion to ask Ms. Laham to announce thru special notice that there is going to be an annual meeting at which board members will be elected and must submit resumes by January 11th. Ms. Paul seconded the motion. All ayes. Six seats are up for election. Group A (Scott Beck is filling the seat now) in Group B (Ms. Prado-Stroze, Ms. Paul, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Allen, and Mr. Francey).
- Ms. Prado-Stroze made the Motion to ask Ms. Klahr to have Messrs. Ford and Larson and Charter School Capital here to give presentation to the board on charter school financing. Ms. Paul seconded the motion. All ayes.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next Governing Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at approximately 5:30 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned:** Mr. Francey adjourned the meeting at 7:48p.m.