

**MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD,
LEARNING EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION OF
WEST BROWARD COUNTY, INC.
d/b/a IMAGINE CHARTER SCHOOL AT WESTON
MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2018**

Prado Stroze

*Prado Stroze
4/17/18*

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Barnes called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Erika Barnes, Jhanet Garcia, Priscilla Prado Stroze, and Scott Beck. The following persons were also present: Julie Klahr, (Board attorney), Nadine Laham, (Principal), Jacky Vernon (Region Director Imagine Schools), Theresa Sumner (Assistant Principal), Karen Gross (Business Manager), and Elsa Forthmuller (Region 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

February 12, 2018 minutes pending.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE AND NEW BUSINESS:

- Lottery windows: Main lottery (K-8) is closed and the Pre-K closes on Friday with preferences being given to siblings already in the school.
- MSD Strong - Imagine Weston acknowledges that we are in solidarity with the tragedy that took place in Parkland. The Middle School students have been out in the field twice expressing themselves in a heartfelt manner.
- Weston Candlelight event - attended and represented by Jessica Barnes (Grade 8)
- SACS accreditation is over. The committee was on campus March 1st and 2nd. Mr. Beck and Ms. Prado Stroze were interviewed on behalf of the Board. We will get a full report in 4-6 weeks. Will get preliminary result. The highest a school can score is 400 points. If a school earns anything between IEQ points of 300-320 that is an above average score. The committee liked the school culture, and the cohesiveness of the parent-student-teacher relationships. The committee interviewed 185 people.
 - The committee suggested that Imagine establish a program from the 5th-6th grade and then one from 8th to high school so that parents have a better understanding of what classes their children are taking and the impact they have. Example, having students take high school classes at Imagine results in having younger students in class with older students (i.e. sophomores with seniors)
- Safety & Security Town Hall meeting - Ms. Prado Stroze was the moderator, Ms. Vernon provided good news. The Mayor was there as well as the City Manager and Chief of Police. As long as Imagine Weston can fund 40% share of the SRO salary, the City of Weston will

fund the rest. SRO who carries a gun. That SRO would also take over arrival and dismissal traffic control.

- Will have to sign a contract for fiscal school year. The money is expected up front.
- Governor's budget did include money for every school that gets funding. Need to make sure that we are on top of this b/c state monies may cover it. State may fund it. Right now, don't know how much money it will come down to per officer. District already pays certain amount for SRO and city pays the rest. SRO's cost about \$150K (including benefits)
- The 40% share about roughly \$47K. All in, it's about \$160K.
- Consider whether Board or parents need to petition District to cover SROs for charter schools like other schools.
- Talent Show auditions – have been held and show will be April 21st (Saturday)
- Middle school movie night "A Wrinkle in Time" – MS sold out a movie theater. It was fun.
- Middle school future enrollment – every year, have trouble maintaining enrollment in the MS. Parents want to give their kids the opportunity to go to a larger middle b/c of the large high school again. Hard to keep up numbers without bringing in new blood. Ms. Laham will be suggesting going back to K-5. Let the kids who are in there finish. Need to look at the data and see what makes the most sense.
 - Mr. Beck wants to send out a survey to get info on why people don't come back.
 - Getting rid of the Middle School is on the table.
- BPA fundraising – Business Professionals of America. Had a fundraiser (dress down day) to help support this. There are 14 kids and two are not going. Have a team of 4 (2 twins and two others). It's a group effort so if part of team does not go, then the entire team cannot go. Everybody in our group won in Orlando. Not the same at other schools.
- Teacher swap for grades 2 & 5 – Had a 5th grade teacher out on medical leave. Since 5th graders take 3 tests (science, math, ELA). Mrs. Sotomayor agreed to sub in that room and get the kids ready for state ELA and support the sub in her second grade bi-lit class.
- Carnival – tomorrow grades 3, 4 and 5. And Pre-K, K, 1 and 2 the next day. None for middle school. There will be camp activities, pony ride for younger kids and lunch. There are very few kids not participating. That money is to help fund additional cameras and a security system. About \$35K was collected and after expenses, may have \$30K or so. This is the fundraiser of the year. Some parents objected to it. Free and reduced lunch kids can participate in activities, but won't get lunch and t-shirt.
- Staff Appreciation week – went well. Staff was treated like kings and queens.
- Spelling Bee – did participate in Scripps National Spelling Bee. Mikey Green (MS) made it to semi-finals. And Edward Zhang, 5th grader, made it to finals.
- Mr. Zimmerman will handle the kids and get them ready for EOC rather than Ms. Blacker. They will also be placed in camps on Mon and Tues afternoon. Mrs. Blacker will get Mr. Zimmerman's first period, non EOC, class.

- Seven teachers have been recognized by the state for being high impact teachers for math and ELA – 4 in 5th grade (Najera, Pestcoe, Casadeval, Slater) and 3 in 4th grade (Ince, Breeding, and Alvaro). These teachers received a letter from the State.
- Received \$58K from State of Florida today for those teachers who were highly effective (\$1200 gross) and effective teachers (\$800 gross) and one teacher qualified for best and brightest (\$6000 – Linda Gordon). There are 49 teachers getting an extra check.

REGION DIRECTOR: JACQUELYN VERNON .

- SACS accreditation. Ms. Vernon and Mr. Sasse were here and they were very proud of the Imagine Weston staff.
- Town hall – comfortable, not hostile. Mayor made comment that Imagine Weston was the only one that asked for that forum for parents. Imagine Weston only non-city-owned charter for which city will be supporting an SRO officer.

BUDGET UPDATE

- Projected shortfall of \$175K.
- Have \$260K that we are holding pending outcome of litigation. If we get this, will be okay. But without this, will need to utilize 25% of the reserve. And this is without improvements that need to be made to facility.
- Ms. Vernon has identified a grant writer, but not a grant finder.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

- Mr. Francey did tell Mr. Edelman that school is interested and serious and have retained bond financing team. Edelman said need to meet with group and discuss finances and latest developments, and get back to Mr. Francey. They have not gotten back to Mr. Francey yet. Not a no, but also no price.

BOARD ACTION

- None

PUBLIC INPUT

- None

BOARD INPUT

- None

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday April 17th, 2018 at 5:30 P.M.

Meeting adjourned.