

GENESEE STEM ACADEMY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

Date: September 17, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: VIA Zoom –

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77102995606?pwd=VFVFR2xqSHhBOXdrejl4eTRZenFvQT09>

5240 Calkins Rd

Flint, MI 48532

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Morgan at 6:05 pm.

**Roll Call**

A roll call of attendance was taken.

Board Members

President, Dr. Morgan–Present (electronically)

Vice President/Treasurer, Legardye-Present (electronically)

Secretary, Taylor–Present (electronically)

Member, Shriver –Present (electronically)

Member, Cheek – Present (electronically)

A quorum was present to conduct business.

Also attending the meeting were the following individuals:

Attendees

Dr. Lorilyn Coggins, EMAN, Zoom Host (electronically)

Mr. Vincent Price, Principal (electronically)

Mr. Doug Newcombe, Saginaw Valley State University (electronically)

Ms. Gwendolyn Harvey, Genesee STEM Academy (electronically)

Mr. Gregory M. Meihn, Legal Counsel (electronically)

Additional GSTEM Staff Members

**Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Ms. Legardye that the agenda be approved with amendments to the order of business. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (5/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Legardye, Taylor, Shriver, and Cheek). Motion passed – Agenda approved as amended.

**Conflict of Interest Inquiry**

No board member indicated having a conflict of interest with any agenda item.

### **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Ms. Cheek to approve the August 31, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (5/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Legardye, Taylor, Shriver and Cheek). Motion passed – Minutes approved.

### **Presentation of the Annual Audit**

As Mr. Wilkerson had not yet joined the call, it was moved by Ms. Cheek and seconded by Mr. Taylor to table the Presentation of the Annual Audit. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (5/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Legardye, Taylor, Shriver and Cheek). Motion passed – Presentation tabled.

### **Action Items Due to Amended Agenda**

It was moved by Ms. Legardye and seconded by Dr. Morgan to approve the August Financial Reports and September disbursements. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (5/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Legardye, Taylor, Shriver and Cheek). Motion passed – Disbursements approved.

Ms. Legardye noted that she has served the Board of Directors of Genesee STEM Academy for the past seven years with dignity and grace and that it is with that same dignity and grace that she tenders her resignation effective immediately. Ms. Legardye then left the meeting.

It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Ms. Cheek to accept the resignation of Ms. Legardye. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (4/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Taylor, Shriver and Cheek). Motion passed – Resignation of Legardye accepted.

It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Ms. Cheek to amend the agenda to include the election of a new Treasurer and Vice President due to the resignation of Ms. Legardye along with the appointment of a new Chief Administrative Officer. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (4/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Taylor, Shriver and Cheek). Motion passed – Amended Agenda approved.

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence regarding the Return to School Legislative Package was received.

A communication from Saginaw Valley State University regarding an upcoming series of Board Governance webinars was received.

### **Public Comment**

A question was raised about the need to receive Ms. Legardye's resignation in writing. It was noted that the action of the Board to accept the resignation as noted in the minutes would be sufficient.

### **Reports**

Mr. Meihn noted that he had advised Ms. Legardye on her resignation. He reported no new information on the sale of the property. He indicated that he would continue to update the Board on any new information via e-mail.

Mr. Price highlighted his monthly report to discuss scheduled SAT testing, professional development, compliance and the upcoming Partnership Meeting. He noted that a fourth grade teacher recently resigned in breach of the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed last year in receipt of a signing bonus. Mr. Meihn indicated that the information should be sent to him. Current enrollment was reported as 307 students. The Board had considerable discussion about absent students. Activities for senior students were also discussed to include college applications and scholarship opportunities. Mr. Price indicated that the parent Title I meeting was held the prior Tuesday.

Dr. Coggins presented the financial reports to include the August cash on hand and, fund balance. She noted that August state aid is accrued back to June and is recorded as June revenue. She reported on the August state aid payment which included a \$175 per pupil shortfall with \$350 additional per pupil revenues that are to be recorded as 20/21 revenue. Dr. Coggins also reported that the 2020 financial audit was complete and that the school ended the year on a more positive note than anticipated or budgeted.

Dr. Coggins provided a compliance report noting the on-time and accurate submissions to Epicenter along with upcoming submission requirements.

The August Field Rep report from SVSU was received.

#### **Extended Covid Learning Plan**

Mr. Price presented the Extended Covid Learning Plan to the Board including the assurances, the educational goals, the delivery of instruction, and equitable access.

Learning is provided to students remotely at this time.

No public comment was received on the ECLP.

It was moved by Ms. Cheek and seconded by Mr. Taylor to adopt the Resolution approving the Extended Covid Learning Plan. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (4/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Taylor, Shriver and Cheek). Motion passed – Extended Covid Learning Plan approved and Resolution adopted. There was some discussion about the delivery of instruction, grading practices and two-way interactions.

#### **Unfinished Business**

Mr. Meihn updated the Board on the current status of the lease and the potential sale. He indicated that no changes would be made to the Lease without them being presented to the Board for approval and also Saginaw Valley State University for their review. The Board discussed other options available to them.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Price provided the Board with updated Finance Policies. No action was taken as this was the first reading of the revised policies. Mr. Price noted that he wanted to add a policy for staff recognition.

It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve Policy 6424 – Purchasing Cards. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (4/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Taylor, Shriver and Cheek). Motion passed – Policy 6424 – Purchasing Cards approved.

It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Taylor to elect Storm Shriver as Treasurer, and Rita Cheek as Vice President and appoint Storm Shriver as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (4/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Taylor, Shriver and Cheek). Motion passed – Officers elected as noted and CAO appointed.

**Extended Public Comment**

There was no extended public comment.

**Board Training with Doug Newcombe**

Mr. Newcombe was present but inquired whether the Board wished to conduct training due to the late hour. It was decided that the next training session would be held on Thursday, October 8, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

**Other Business**

It was moved by Ms. Cheek and seconded by Dr. Morgan to take the Audit Presentation off the table and postpone the presentation until the October regular meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Shriver and Cheek). Motion passed – Audit Presentation postponed.

**Announcement of Next Meeting**

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 6:00 pm. It was noted that this meeting would be held virtually in accordance with Executive Order 2020-154.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Ms. Cheek to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion. Motion passed – Meeting adjourned.



Dr. Lorilyn Coggins  
Acting Recording Secretary

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I certify that these minutes were approved as read by the Academy Board at a duly noticed open meeting held on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at which a quorum was present.

By: Harriett Cheek (Covid 19)  
Its: Secretary

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLANS  
("ECLP")**

Genesee STEM Academy (the "Academy")

A regular meeting of the Academy Board of Directors was held on the 17th day of September, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Board President Morgan:

Present: Morgan, Taylor, Shriver, and Cheek

Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Board Member Cheek and supported by Board Member Taylor:

**BACKGROUND**

On August 20, 2020, in response to the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic affecting our state, Governor Whitmer signed into law certain amendments to the State School Aid Act of 1979, as amended, MCL 388.1601 *et seq.* ("Back to School Laws"). The Back to School Laws include additional requirements for all Michigan schools as they plan for a return of preK-12 education for the 2020-2021 school year. Under the Back to School Laws, a public school academy must provide for instruction under an extended COVID-19 learning plan ("ECLP") that is approved by its authorizing body ("Authorizer"). ECLPs include many of the same subject matters addressed in a public school academy's charter contract, including measurable educational goals to be achieved by all subgroups in the school, measurement of those educational goals by one or more benchmark assessments, a description of how the educational program, including instruction, will be delivered, a description of the school's curricula and specific reporting requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. Under the Back to School Laws, schools retain the flexibility to tailor and adjust their ECLPs to meet the needs of their students and the community they serve.

The Back to School Laws require, among other things, that each public school academy do the following:

- (1) Establish educational goals required to be included in the ECLP no later than September 15, 2020.

(2) Approve an ECLP and submit it to their respective Authorizer for approval by October 1, 2020. If approved by the Authorizer, the ECLP is transmitted by the Authorizer to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Treasurer.

(3) Make an ECLP accessible through the transparency reporting link on the school's website by October 1, 2020.

(4) Within the first nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year, administer 1 or more benchmark assessments from the list approved by the Michigan Department of Education ("MDE")<sup>1</sup>, a benchmark assessment provided by MDE, or local benchmark assessments, or a combination of the above, to pupils in grades K-8 to measure math and reading proficiency. In addition, by the last day of the 2020-2021 school year, administer another benchmark assessment to pupils in K-8 to measure proficiency in the same subject matter. The Back to School Laws require schools to use the same benchmark assessment(s) used in the 2019-2020 school year, if applicable.

(5) Provide each pupil's data from the benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments, as available, to the pupil's parent or legal guardian within 30 days of administering the benchmark assessment(s).

(6) Not later than February 1, 2021, create a report that addresses the progress made in meeting the educational goals in the ECLP that the academy expected would be achieved by the middle of the school year and make the report available on the transparency reporting link on a public school academy's website.

(7) Not later than the last day of the 2020-2021 school year, create a report concerning progress made in meeting the educational goals in the ECLP and make the report available on the transparency reporting link on a public school academy's website.

(8) No later than June 30, 2021, send the aggregate academy-level data from a benchmark assessment(s), excluding data from a local benchmark assessment or local benchmark

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<sup>1</sup> MDE has approved four providers of benchmark assessments and continues to assess additional providers. See [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Benchmark\\_assessments\\_7000777.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Benchmark_assessments_7000777.pdf)

assessments, to a regional data hub that is part of the Michigan data hub network that shall compile the data and send it to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (“CEPI”).

(9) Thirty days after approval of the ECLP, the Board shall meet monthly to re-confirm how pupil instruction is being delivered at the school and whether it is consistent with the ECLP and to ensure that 2 2-way interaction, as defined in the Act, is occurring between students and teachers each week of the school year for at least 75% of students enrolled in the school. At each meeting, the Board shall: (a) publicly announce its weekly interaction rates of 2 2-way interaction since its last meeting; (b) allow for public comment on the ECLP; and (c) discuss whether changes to the method of delivery for pupil instruction under the ECLP are necessary.

**THE ACADEMY BOARD THEREFORE RESOLVES THAT:**

1. The attached ECLP, approved by the Authorizer, is approved. See Exhibit 1. Actions taken by Academy representatives to prepare and submit the ECLP to the Authorizer are ratified.
2. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.
4. The Academy will deliver from time to time such information regarding the implementation of the Academy’s ECLP as the Authorizer or Michigan Department of Education may reasonably request.
5. Any Board policies or provision of Board policies that prohibit or impede the Academy’s compliance with ECLP are temporarily waived, suspended or altered.
6. This Resolution shall take immediate effect and continue through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. If the Back to School Laws are amended, and such amendments requires additional Board action relative to the ECLP, the Board may take such action to comply with existing law.

Ayes: Morgan, Taylor, Shriver, and Cheek

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted.

**Harriett Cheek (COVID 19)**

Print Name: Harriett Cheek

Secretary, Academy Board