

GENESEE STEM ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Date: January 21, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: VIA Zoom –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84393204960?pwd=UWVoWVpnSkd2cDJPa3RnSFNkYzhkQT09>

5240 Calkins Rd

Flint, MI 48532

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Morgan at 6:01 pm.

Oath of Public Office

The Oath of Public Office was administered by Dr. Lorilyn Coggins, Notary Public to Mr. Sylvester Jones.

Roll Call

A roll call of attendance was taken.

Board Members

- President, Dr. Morgan–Present (remotely from Washtenaw County, MI)
- Vice President/Secretary, Cheek–Present (Arrived at 6:07 p.m. - remotely from Saginaw County, Saginaw MI)
- Treasurer, Shriver – Present (remotely from Ingham County, East Lansing)
- Member, Taylor – Present (remotely from Genesee County, Flint MI)
- Member, Jones – Present (remotely from Genesee County, Grand Blanc - Left at 6:30 p.m.)

A quorum was present at all times 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. G. Michael Meihn, Legal Counsel (electronically)

Ms. Purches-Waller, Genesee STEM Academy (electronically)

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Jones that the agenda be approved as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (5/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Taylor, Shriver, Cheek, and Jones). Motion passed – Agenda approved.

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 Mr. Taylor to approve the December 17, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (5/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Taylor, Shriver, Cheek, and Jones). Motion passed – Minutes approved.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Correspondence

Items of correspondence were received and reviewed by the Board to include:

- Saginaw Valley State University appointment of Mr. Jones to the Board of Directors of Genesee STEM Academy for a term expiring June 30, 2022

Reports

Mr. Price highlighted his monthly report to discuss the possible return to face-to-face instruction, growth goals, and testing protocols. The Board also discussed future remote board meetings.

Mr. Meihn provided an update on the facility financing.

Dr. Coggins presented the financial reports to include the December cash on hand, fund balance, state revenues and expenditures as compared to the board approved budget.

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

The December Field Rep report from SVSU was received.

Extended Covid Learning Plan

Mr. Price reported that instruction remains 100% virtual for all students. No changes are needed to the Extended Covid Learning Plan at this time.

Attendance rates were presented to the Board on a daily basis from December 1, 2020 through January 20, 2021. The average attendance rate for this period is 83.8%. Mr. Price reported that the goal is 90% and regular communication is made on a daily basis with families to ensure that students are in attendance.

There was considerable discussion about the timing for a return to face-to-face instruction. It was recommended that surveys be conducted with families to gauge their interest in a return to in-school instruction before any decision is made by the Board of Directors. Concerns were raised about the second strain of the virus and the slow roll out of vaccines. Additional concerns were raised around having students in front of screens at school while there are still students learning remotely at home and whether in-school computer work adds any value to the instruction. There are also building constraints that prevent a 100% return to school while safety and distancing protocols are still required.

An opportunity was provided for public comment on the ECLP. No public comment was received.

It was moved by Ms. Cheek and seconded by Mr. Shriver to reaffirm the Extended Covid Learning Plan with the continuation of remote instruction. 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 reaffirmed.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Meihn counseled the Board to delay action on the proposed Lease Amendment until at least the February meeting in anticipation of the proposal that is forthcoming from Mr. Urban regarding possible financing which would allow the Board to purchase the building. It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Taylor to postpone action on the Lease. 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 – Lease postponed.

Mr. Price reported that the Reauthorization Application was submitted on January 11, 2021. As the last reauthorization was less than two years ago, many of the items requested were current and no additional submission was necessary. The focus was less on the educational program and more on the Extended Covid Learning Plan. The recent audit conducted by Saginaw Valley State University on the ECLP was positive. 79% of the current teachers are certified which is up from prior years. 95% of the staff has indicated their intent to return for the 21/22 school year. There needs to be a plan of action to develop more master teachers on staff.

New Business

It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the December financial reports. 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 – Financial reports approved.

A rough draft of the 2021/2022 Lottery and Enrollment Procedures was presented. It was moved by Ms. Cheek and seconded by Dr. Morgan to postpone action on the 2021/2022 Lottery and Enrollment Procedures. 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 – Lottery and Enrollment Procedures postponed.

A first reading of two vaccination policies was made. Mr. Meihn recommended no action at this time until further information is available.

Extended Public Comment

Ms. Cheek noted that the building looks great.

Dr. Coggins reported that the MDHHS has made a Covid testing program available to schools.

Ms. Cheek recommended that the Board consider paying Mr. Price a stipend for his work on the Partnership Agreement. While the stipend was not approved in the recent 21h budget, the Board could consider paying it from the General Fund. Dr. Coggins indicated she would include the item on the February agenda.

Mr. Newcombe was asked about the anticipated timeline for notification from Saginaw Valley State University with respect to reauthorization. Mr. Newcombe indicated that an internal meeting is scheduled within a few weeks and the Board should then be notified.

Announcement of Next Meeting

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm. This meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Cheek to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. The vote was unanimous (4/0) in favor of the motion. Motion passed – Meeting adjourned.



Dr. Lorilyn Coggins
Acting Recording Secretary

I certify that these minutes were approved as read by the Academy Board at a duly noticed open meeting held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at which a quorum was present.

By: **Harriett Cheek (covid19)**

Its: Secretary