

GENESEE STEM ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Date: December 17, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: VIA Zoom –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/72987636329?pwd=WHVhR041M1orUXIyejRlMGM1SlZvdz09>

5240 Calkins Rd

Flint, MI 48532

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Cheek at 6:04 pm.

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 (remotely from Saginaw County, Saginaw MI)

Treasurer, Shriver –Absent (Excused)

Member, Taylor – Present (remotely from Genesee County, Flint MI)

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. G. Michael Meihn, Legal Counsel (electronically)

Mr. Sylvester Jones, Prospective Board Member (electronically)

Mr. Joseph Urban, Clark Hill

Mr. Pat Battaglia

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Morgan that the agenda be approved as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Cheek and Taylor). 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 Ms. Cheek to approve the November 19, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Cheek and Taylor). Motion passed – Minutes approved.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Presentation

Mr. Meihn reviewed the current status of the building under the lease with AEP and the potential sale to Wonderful Foundations pursuant to a bond. He suggested that the Board might also have the option to purchase the building from AEP and introduced Mr. Joseph Urban from Clark Hill to present various financing options.

Mr. Urban started with a discussion on establishing the fair market value of the building. He then provided the pros and cons of bond financing versus a bank loan noting that a bank loan would have lower fees involved. He stated that he would charge a flat fee to assist the Board with bank financing and that he would not charge the Board for initial due diligence. He stated that he would provide a written proposal to the Board for their consideration at a future meeting.

Correspondence

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

- MDE Approval of SFSP Addendum with Variety Foods
- MDE Approval of Additional Instructional Time Grant

Reports

Mr. Price highlighted his monthly report to discuss recent NWEA testing and projected proficiency rates. There was considerable discussion about recent SAT/PSAT scores and baseline NWEA data for the current year.

Dr. Coggins presented the financial reports to include the November cash on hand, fund balance, state revenues and expenditures as compared to the board approved budget. It was moved by Dr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the November financial reports. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Cheek and Taylor). Motion passed – November financial reports approved.

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

The November 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 November 2, 2020 through December 17, 2020. The average attendance rate for this period is 82.6%.

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. Taylor to reaffirm the Extended Covid Learning Plan. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Cheek and Taylor). Motion passed – Extended Covid Learning Plan reaffirmed.

Unfinished Business

No action was taken on the Lease.

It was moved by Ms. Cheek and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the SFSP Addendum with Variety Foods. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Cheek and Taylor). Motion passed – SFSP Addendum with Variety Foods approved.

It was moved by Ms. Cheek and seconded by Mr. Taylor to adopt the Board Membership Resolution nominating Mr. Sylvester Jones to fill the vacant position on the Board. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Cheek and Taylor). Motion passed – Board Membership Resolution adopted.

No action was taken on the Reauthorization Application. Mr. Price reported that it would be submitted by the due date and presented to the Board for approval at their January meeting.

New Business

Ms. Cheek discussed the availability of playground equipment and an offer made by Mr. Pat Battaglia to raise sufficient funds to dismantle, restore and install the playground equipment at Genesee STEM Academy at no cost to the Board. He noted that the installation would be up to code and include the required wood chips or rubberized mulch for safety. It was moved by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Morgan to authorize Ms. Cheek to provide Mr. Battaglia with a letter of confirmation. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (AYE – Morgan, Cheek and Taylor). Motion passed – Playground approved.

Mr. Price reported that he is seeking quotes for a camera system for the school to ensure campus security and would be bringing a proposal to the Board at either the January or February meeting.

Extended Public Comment

Mr. Newcombe thanked the Board for their continued work on behalf of the students and wished everyone happy holidays, with a wish to stay safe and healthy.

Ms. Cheek expressed a wish for everyone to celebrate safely.

Mr. Jones thanked the Board for their nomination. He noted that he is looking forward to a continued collaboration. He also expressed that he hoped the building committee would include Mr. Price.

Announcement of Next Meeting

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Cheek to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm. The vote was unanimous (3/0) 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, January 21, 2021 at which a quorum was present.

By: **Harriett Cheek (Covid 19)**

Its: Board Secretary