

**Detroit Leadership Academy
Board of Directors**

Approved Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Held Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 6pm

EQUITY Education Offices

13600 Virgil

Detroit, MI 48223

Call to Order (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was called to order at 6:24 pm by Mark Lezotte, President.

Roll Call (Agenda item 1.1)

Board Members	Present	Absent
LaKeisha Florence	x	
Alvina Gipson		x
Diane Jackson	x	
Mark Lezotte	x	
Dan Piepszowski	x @ 6:33pm	

Organization	Members of the Public
Betsy Kyprianos	
Gary Meier	
Kerri Smith	
Sarah Campbell	
Casey Paulus	
Valerie Raspberry	
Jerry Giordano	
Tyler Shaw	
Erin Wills	
Kiada Watts	
DeCheena Tillman	
Blake Hancock	
Kevin Rose	
Orlando Castellon	

Approval of Agenda (Agenda Item 2)

Mark Lezotte confirmed the Agenda.

It was MOVED by **Jackson** and SUPPORTED by **Florence** to approve the agenda.

No discussion after the motion.

Vote: Ayes: (3) Nays: None

Approval of Minutes (Agenda Item 3.1)

It was MOVED by Florence and SUPPORTED by Jackson to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on October 18, 2017.

No discussion after the motion.

Vote: Ayes: (3) Nays: None

Public Comment (Agenda item 4.1)

EQUITY introduced the school leadership staff from DLA Elementary and Middle/High School, as well as the EQUITY shared staff that work with DLA culture and academic initiatives.

DLA ES-Ms. Kiada Watts provided an update on culture initiatives that included: wellness, attendance, and PBIS. Ms. Wills seconded the culture update by lifting up the positive neighborhood involvement, the positive culture and support between DLA and EQUITY Education, the academic intervention programs, weekly coaching and support between building leadership and teachers. Principal Wills also reflected on the positive trends in student reactions through the mindfulness program, noting that more students are self-regulating their emotions. With the adults, the coaching is very purposeful in modeling very high level teaching to all adults so that the high expectations trickle down to the students and message that all students can learn and achieve.

DLA MS/HS-Principal Tillman introduced herself and experience in the field of education. Ms. Tillman highlighted that CMU, Alma, Tuskegee, MSU, and other field experiences the students are offered. Ms. Tillman also spoke about the expectation that all seniors graduate and participate in a post-secondary education or career path, and that the school is committed to that goal. To date, 50% of the Seniors have already completed their FAFSA forms.

Kevin Rose lifted up the lesson plan initiative at the high school, holding all adults in the building accountable to quality lessons. Blake Hancock lifted up the observation cycles that align to EQ's teacher performance rubric and creating an individual identity for the middle school and its students. The champion hour provides extended learning opportunities, where students have a voice and choice to write poetry, learn chess, etc.

The board inquired about where students are academically and how we are moving them. The campuses jointly responded about creating a healthy culture of competition between adults and students to move achievement farther faster. It was also noted that all of the adjustments made to teaching and learning is based in data.

Review and Receive Monthly Financial Reports (Agenda Item 5.1)

Board Treasurer Lakeisha Florence provided an overview of the various financial reports, including the balance sheet and income statement through September. Other key performance indicators were also reviewed, including the status of grant drawdowns,

projected per pupil funding, and additional revenue due to higher than anticipated enrollment. The October numbers will be more relevant. It was noted that EQUITY will meet in December with the Board treasurer to review the proposed amended budget. Currently, the year-end surplus is still expected to increase by over \$100,000.

It was **MOVED** by **Piepszowski** and **SUPPORTED** by **Florence** to acknowledge receipt of the financial reports as presented.

No discussion after the motion.

Vote: Ayes: (4) Nays: None

Update Status of Budget Amendment (Agenda Item 5.2)

Following a review of the draft Budget Amendment #2 with the Treasurer in December, it is expected the Amendment will be placed on the January meeting agenda for approval.

Discussion of the transition to Chemical Bank for banking purposes was held, noting that training on the electronic transfer of funds is still to be held.

Report from Authorizer (Agenda Item 6)

CMU Representative Orlando Castellon reported that the center is still reviewing the MSTEP growth data and reviewing the track record against contract goals. Professional Development Opportunities for the board and scholarship opportunities for staff were also discussed.

Academic Update (Agenda Item 7.1)

Casey Paulus provided a summary of her national experience in education. She also explained that EQ and our schools wanted to use the most high quality curriculum this year so we are now strictly aligned with common core, NGSL, MI Social Studies Standards, Eureka, FOSS, etc. The teaching and learning rubric and its 4 components align with the growth focused system, including collaboration, planning, and reflection and adjusting instruction. High quality is defined as 80% of students have mastery of grade level standards, pushing the bar of expectations and excellence regardless of deficiencies. Teachers get weekly practice and feedback on their lesson plans, and "staff meetings" are not used to disseminate information but as a professional learning and development time focused on data. Mastery Connect is our proficiency measure that hosts the interims used by the HS, while Academic Approach and NWEA is used at the elementary school.

The Board President inquired if parents are being informed of the academic accountability. EQUITY highlighted the work that Mr. Orr is doing to engage parents, the required parent events for Title 1 compliance, and rigorous student led parent/teacher conferences.

Approval to Modify Organization Resolutions (Agenda Item 7.2)

Gary Meier reviewed the need for the Board to modify organization meeting resolutions due to the resignation of Trisha Meier, including appointment of the Board's Corresponding Agent, individual responsible for posting meeting notices, and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Coordinator, as attached.

It was MOVED by **Piepszowski** and SUPPORTED by **Jackson** to approved the attached resolutions naming Kerri Smith and Anita Tucker as Corresponding Agent, Anita Tucker as individual responsible for posting meeting notices, and Anita Tucker as Freedom of Information Act Coordinator, effective through the next Organization meeting of the Board

No discussion following the motion.

Vote: Ayes (4), Nays: None

Update/Approve Transportation Contract (Agenda Item 7.3)

It was reported that the AJ Transportation contract is in its final draft form and ready for approval.

It was MOVED by **Jackson** and SUPPORTED by **Florence** to accept the Board attorney's recommendation to approve the transportation contract between the Board and AJ Transportation, pending final minor language changes, with approval for the Board President to execute the final agreement.

No discussion following the motion.

Vote: Ayes-(4), Nays-None

Miscellaneous Update – Count Day Enrollment, Staffing, etc. (Agenda Item 7.3)

EQUITY provided the Board with an enrollment update, as well as updates on student suspensions, the Academy's mindfulness program, play based learning (PBL), Mini-grants, and the advisory program. It was further noted with the mini-grant program that there are 16 Mini-grants, with the selection process based on annual applications.

Old Business (Agenda Item 8)

None

New Business (Agenda Item 9)

None

Extended Public Comment (Agenda Item 11)

None

Comments from the Board (Agenda Item 12)

None

Next Meeting Date (Agenda Item 13.1)

January 2018

Meeting Adjourn (Agenda Item 14)

President Lezotte adjourned the Regular Meeting of November, 15 2017 at 7:58 pm.

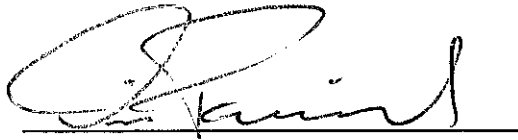
Submitted on October 30, 2017 by

Kerri Smith

Kerri Smith

Recording Secretary

Approved on November 15, 2017 by



Dan Piepszowski

Board Secretary