

**Detroit Leadership Academy  
Board of Directors**

**Approved Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**Held Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 6pm**

EQUITY Education Offices

13600 Virgil

Detroit, MI 48223

**Call to Order (Agenda Item 1)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 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	

Organization		Members of the Public
Betsy Kyprianos	Shifman & Carlson	
Sarah Campbell	EQUITY Education	
Orlando Castellon	Central Michigan University	
Renee Burgess	EQUITY Education	

**Approval of Agenda (Agenda Item 2)**

Mark Lezotte confirmed the Agenda.

It was MOVED by **Lezotte** and SUPPORTED by **Piepszowski** 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 **Lezotte** and SUPPORTED by **Piepszowski** to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on November 15, 2017.

No discussion after the motion.

Vote: Ayes: (3) Nays: None

### **Review and Receive Monthly Financial Reports (Agenda Item 5.1)**

Renee Burgess has discussed the report with Treasurer LaKeisha Florence prior to the meeting and provided an overview of the various financial reports including the key performance indicators. These include the status of grant drawdowns and additional revenue. The balance sheet and income statement were also reviewed which noted higher than budgeted revenue due to an increase in pupil enrollment and increase in Section 31a. Currently no IDEA funds have been drawn down due to concerns with Wayne RESA re-building of the drawdown system. DLA also received \$10,000 of Title IV funding, which is the same as other schools its size. There are additional higher costs related to administration and pupil support mostly due to payroll. Currently the budget is tracking under projection.

It was MOVED by **Piepszowski** and SUPPORTED by **Lezotte** to receive and support the monthly financials reports as presented.

No discussion after the motion.

Vote: Ayes: (3) Nays: None

### **Review/Approve Budget Amendment (Agenda Item 5.2)**

Renee Burgess reviewed the budget amendment. She also explained the revenue increases due to higher than anticipated student enrollment. There is an increase in spending in Instructional Resources due to purchases of textbooks and books. Added Services and School Administration provided the largest changes within the budget due to an increase in wraparound services and the shared leadership structure, including the inclusion of school leader of operations. Additional changes in cost, both increases and decreases, were highlighted along with explanation as to how they enhance the educational program.

Orlando Castellon had questions regarding numbers in the budget detail. There was discussion and it was noted that there is an error in the Budget Revision – Object Level. The Board President suggested tabling the amended budget until the next board meeting, February 2018.

It was MOVED by **Gibson** and SUPPORTED by **Piepszowski** to table the budget amendment until February 2018 pending the changes of the budget amendment.

No discussion following the motion.

Vote: Ayes: (3) Nays: None

### **Report from Authorizer (Agenda Item 6)**

CMU Representative Orlando Castellon reported that the Center is going through a transition as their previous Executive Director is retiring and will be supporting the interim Executive Director. Mr. Castellon mentioned the parent portal that the state of

Michigan released. Professional Development Opportunities for the board and scholarship opportunities for staff were also discussed. Etta Collins, a professor from Missouri, is coming to CMU on 3-21. She is open to additional professional development and coming to schools.

#### **Academic Update (Agenda Item 7.1)**

Renee Burgess provided a summary of the current academics including use of *Edgenuity* in the Middle School and Varsity Tutors for SAT/PSAT Prep in the High School. Ms. Burgess also highlighted the Fall NWEA MAP data including the cohort student achievement compared to the Contract Goals. Cohort students are defined as students who have attended the academy for three or more years.

#### **Release from Priority School Status (Agenda Item 7.2)**

Renee Burgess shared the letter from received from the Board via Michigan Department of Education releasing Detroit Leadership Academy Elementary School from Priority School Status. No further updates have been received from the State.

#### **First Reading of Fall 2017 Board Policies (Agenda Item 7.3)**

Board President Mark Lezotte provided an overview of his discussion with the Board's attorney Betsy Kyprianos regarding the reading of the Fall 2017 policies. It is suggested that the Board read and review the policies. There was discussion on the Sex Education policy and abortion related aspect of the employer policy.

#### **Miscellaneous Update – 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, Mini-grants, and Professional Development (awarding of SCHECs). It was further noted that DLA has more projects than the other schools in the EQUITY Network.

#### **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)**

Next Regular Meeting on February 21, 2018

**Meeting Adjourn (Agenda Item 14)**

President Lezotte adjourned the Regular Meeting of January, 17 2018 at 7:49 pm.

Submitted on January 17, 2018 by *Kerri Smith*

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Kerri Smith  
Recording Secretary

Approved on February 21, 2018 by

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Dan Piepszowski  
Board Secretary