

**Detroit Leadership Academy
Board of Directors**

Approved Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Held Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6pm

EQUITY Education Offices

13600 Virgil

Detroit, MI 48223

Call to Order (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Mark Lezotte, President.

Roll Call (Agenda item 1.1)

Board Members	Present	Absent
LaKeisha Florence	X (6:40 p.m.)	
Alvina Gipson		X
Dr. Diane Jackson	X	
Mark Lezotte	X	
Dan Piepszowski	X	

Organization	Members of the Public
Betsy Kyprianos	
Gary Meier	
Orlando Castellon	
Renee Burgess	
Kerri Smith	
Casey Paulus	
Jerry Girodano	
Sarah Campbell	

Approval of Agenda (Agenda Item 2)

Mark Lezotte confirmed the Agenda.

It was MOVED by Jackson 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 Jackson and SUPPORTED by Piepszowski to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 17, 2018.

No discussion after the motion.

Vote: Ayes: (3) Nays: None

Review and Receive Monthly Financial Reports (Agenda Item 5.1)

Renee Burgess and Gary Meier discussed grant funds draw down percentages at this point in the year at about 60%. There will be an increase in federal grant allocations and that Academy can expect IDEA allocations to be dispersed in the next month. The Board President and Renee Burgess discussed that the increases in federal funds will not warrant another mid-year budget amendment, but there will be a final budget amendment in June, unless there is a dramatic shift that needs to be addressed in revenue or expenditures. The current state aid forecast will adjust over the next couple months and Board Treasure requested that ESP maintain fund balance at the same projected number.

It was MOVED by **Jackson** and SUPPORTED **Piepszowski** by 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 and Board President Lezotte noted that the majority of changes in the budget are tied to pupil accounting and an up-tick in federal grant allocations. There was discussion about basic program, support services, and pupil services based on what services are provided to students from hired staff versus those related to coaching and feedback and professional development. School administration also had a significant budget increase due to the number of positions allocated to a shared leadership model, as well as office staff, there is a predicted decrease in this line item for 18-19 due to restructuring.

It was MOVED by **Jackson** and SUPPORTED by **Piepszowski** to approve the amendment as presented.

Discussion after the motion focused on how the shared leadership model allows for best teaching and learning and allows all leaders to complete the work aligned with their role so that not all responsibility falls on one leader.

Vote: Ayes: (3) Nays: None

Report from Authorizer (Agenda Item 6)

Orlando Castellon informed the board that a meeting date needs to be set to discuss and finalize the metrics for CMU contract. The Board, EQ, and CMU will collaborate to establish an appropriate meeting schedule.

Academic Update (Agenda Item 7.1)

Casey Paulus informed the Board about Winter Data for reading and math. Renee Burgess discussed how the investment in staff ties to the results the academy is seeing and the outliers in data that need to be addressed by making data cycle shifts with teaching and learning. Positive trends for DLA include being on track to meet or exceed their contract goals for Math and Reading when capturing all students. Renee Burgess presented to the board the difference for growth and proficiency, including partially proficient and comparing the Virgil campus to other local elementary results, where the academy is outperforming its counterparts. The middle high school campus behavior data has decreased since previous years, there is current discussion to expand mindfulness and ban on suspensions (except those legally obligated) for grades 6-8, to keep the positive momentum. The Academy is currently outperforming Cody, however we want to meet or exceed the ISD cohort within the next 5 years as it relates to state standardized testing scores and proficiency. There has been ongoing discussion about how EQUITY schools monitors its data and response to data, right now there are 5 data cycles a year to inform decision making and 95% represents Proficiency. The board inquired about a profile that expressed the competencies of students by grade level and academic achievement outlining pages read, reports typed, oral presentations delivered, etc. Retaining talent will be key to ongoing success and results where measures have been taken by the way of comparable salaries, incentive bonus, opportunities for development and future leadership. EQUITY has also chosen to partner with edfuel to reflect on their talent development including retention and support in a very competitive market.

Jerry Giordano presented to the board strategies to keep the positive continuum for DLA. The First strategy is to increase our GSRP classrooms from 1-3, and it was discussed that the family interest and student data warrants the increase in partnership with RESA who has given the academy the opportunity to apply for 2 classrooms. The second strategy is to move 6th grade to the ES in an effort to departmentalize grade bands, through team teaching, and then by content to improve instructional strength. DLA's 6th grade cohort is the weakest link around academics and retention and there is a strong belief that moving the 6th graders to Virgil will increase their behavior and academic performance which are currently connected in a negative pattern.

In an effort accomplish the addition of the GSRP classrooms and movement of 6th grade to Virgil, it will be necessary to add classroom space. One proposed way to add this space is to lease portable classrooms. The portable classroom model would allow creation of a "junior high school" scenario housing 5th & 6th grades only.

The Board discussed variables such as meeting with the landlord, staffing plans, projected enrollment, and timelines.

Second Reading/Approval of Fall 2017 Board Policies (Agenda Item 7.2)

It was MOVED by Jackson and SUPPORTED by Florence to accept Board Policies as presented.

No Discussion after Motion

Vote: Ayes: (4) Nays: None

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

No discussion

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)

The Board checked with the EQUITY home team staff about how site level staff are feeling about the recent Florida shooting. There was discussion about phone apps that allow students or adults report concerns about potential violence in schools. Board Members and Renee Burgess will attend the mayor's meeting at the DAC, next week.

Next Meeting Date (Agenda Item 13.1)

Next Regular Meeting on March 21st, 2018

Meeting Adjourn (Agenda Item 14)

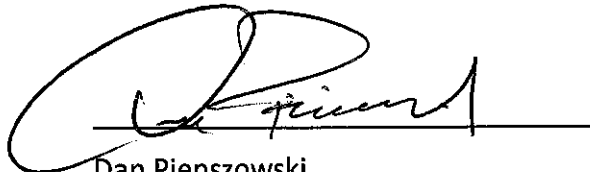
President Lezotte adjourned the Regular Meeting of February 21, 2018 at 8:34 pm.

Submitted on February 21, 2018 by *Kerri Smith*

Kerri Smith

Recording Secretary

Approved on March 19, 2018 by



Dan Piepszowski

Board Secretary