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April 4th, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes

TIME: 5:00 PM at Gateway Academy

***rescheduled meeting from March 28th, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER: meeting called to order by A. Jansons at 5:00pm
- II. Roll Call: Board members present – Omar Awil, Ally Jansons, Brandon Haley. Abdirahman Mukhtar joined at 5:20pm. Absent – Abdisalan Osman. Also present – Ed Fellows, Kyle Knutson.
- III. Mission Reading: Read by A. Jansons - The mission of Gateway STEM Academy is to be a K-8 Charter school that prepares a diverse community of students for academic success by providing an enriching and focused learning environment in science, technology, engineering and math.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT: No written or verbal comment.
- V. Acceptance of Agenda: Motion to accept made by B. Haley, seconded by O. Awil. Ayes: 3 Nays: 0
- VI. Approval of February 2023 Board Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept made by B. Haley, seconded by O. Awil. Ayes: 3 Nays: 0
- VII. New Business -
 - A. Approve EdFin 2023-2026: vote to approve 3-year contract for EdFinMN to provide financial support for Gateway STEM Academy. Motion to approve made by B. Haley, seconded by O. Awil. Ayes: 3 Nays: 0
 - B. Finances – February Financials – presented by Kyle Knudson. 67% through school year. Fund balance down 10% from last month.
 - C. 2023-2024 School Budget Workshop
 - Current enrollment: 194 and increasing
 - Anticipate 200 students next school year
 - Change balance is (\$340,000)
 - How to proceed without COVID revenue stream

- Most school dollars go into salaries: to the benefit of students and public
- Need to decide which positions to cut...effective immediately or next school year
- Need to decide what is best as far as impact on academics for students and the goals of the school
- Need to follow the guidelines and recommendations of authorizer
- 3 recent resignations of non-instructional positions
- More students will require more teachers
- Current freeze on all hiring
- The need is to retain current teaching staff and post for licensed teachers for next year. Best practice is to offer teacher contracts as soon as possible.
- Projections are to add 1 kindergarten and 4 middle school
- If classrooms are filled to capacity, can accommodate 220 total students
- Focus on diversity and achievement of all students
- Budget needs to be approved by July 1, 2023. Contracts can be presented – with understanding that offer contingent on board approval.
- ADM will need to be 235-240 to get budget to \$0 and/or positive balance
- Plan to move forward with the assumption of 200 ADM
- Does board make adjustments solely with staffing or should some adjustments be made to tech and/or instructional...with the goal of the least impact to students
- Board plans to meet in 2 weeks to discuss positions. EdFin will adjust staffing dollars minus recent resignations, without COVID positions
- PUC must also improve so enrollment needs to be justified

D. Discuss board of directors length of membership

- Each member can serve 2 and/or 3-year terms
- Bylaws define staggered terms
- Each member to define their term as it relates to their obligation to the board
- President has a 3-year term
- Important to maintain a consistent board
- Plan to hold parent elections to increase size of board next year: add 2 parents and 1 staff to board next year

VIII. Directors Report:

1. Facilities update

- School has been given approval to use gym and 2 offices
- Working with plumbers, electrician and building owners to bring other areas up to code

2. MCA Practice for all grade levels
 - Preliminary results from practice testing shows there is work to do
 - Another test practice planned for next week
3. Staffing projections need to be completed after 2023-2024 Budget is complete: offer letters will be presented contingent on board approval of budget and enrollment continuing to increase
4. Enrollment update
 - 260 maximum number of students school can accommodate
 - School will continue to increase outreach and recruitment. In-house marketing will be used to recruit a more diverse population
5. Authorizer staffing updates: Samantha Diez has left PUC. Larry McKenzie stepping into roll and plans meeting with board members

VIII. Adjourn Meeting: motion to adjourn by B. Haley, seconded by A. Mukhtar. Ayes 4 Nays 0...meeting adjourned at 6:27pm.