

Etoile Academy Board Meeting
April 22, 2021

Start: _____ **6:00 p.m.** **End:** **8:00 p.m.**

Present:

Michelle Bair (video dial-in), Michelle He (video dial-in), Ja'Milla Lomas (video dial-in), Philip Wright (video dial-in); Kayleigh Colombero (ex-officio), Alim Adatia (video dial-in); Adeeba Yusuf (video dial-in); Richard Baker (video dial-in); Tabinda Ghani (video dial-in); Cagri B -- John Archer (video dial-in)

Quorum met: Yes

Guests: Jasmine Lynch, Sofi Durham

Public Comments: None stated

Approval of minutes (March)

Motioned: Adeeba Yusuf **Seconded:** Alim Adatia

Vote: 9-0 Approved

Review of Agenda

Michelle He read the Etoile Mission statement.

Kayleigh presented the Superintendent's Report

- 10 Smith students have been tutoring Etoile students). New for them and they created a website to onboard new mentors and staff working at Etoile.
- Continue to work with St. Johns teaching virtual piano, dance, and summer clubs. Students also come to Etoile for summer school. Jamilla asked about how kids qualify for the St. John's program.
- Working with AFA Texas teaching violin.
- Working with UH for summer school, before and after school. Grant for 25 students to tutor.
- Breakthrough Houston will be on our campus this summer. Great way for us to recruit teachers.
- Student demographics - above 90% average daily attendance; 100% attendance for 7th graders (really excited about that).
- Two kids withdrew due to attendance.
- Over 70 applications. Doing better with getting parents to accept their seats then in the past. Only four haven't accepted. RAB asked what our goals were and Kayleigh

responded that we have openings in 5 and 6 grade and that we have some work to do on meeting our goals.

- NWEA Map - challenges this year in getting growth. 95% of our 7th graders came to campus to take the STAAR Writing test which is remarkable.
- Phil discussed the Accountability of the STAAR assessment.
- Chair Bair asked about Eureka. Kayleigh responded that it is Etoile's academy. Phil discussed our challenges with Eureka (college ready) and the STAAR (not so much college ready). Kayleigh then disclosed that Christina went back into the classroom when another teacher left and did a phenomenal job.
- RAB asked what SPED was and Kayleigh explained that it was - special education students. Those students (ELL and SPED have some opportunity to grow).
- Black and African-American Americans are outperforming other groups.
- Phil discussed the key dates related to the STAAR and NWEA Map (STAAR online did crash this year). Although it is online, they still have to come to campus to take the test. Even though it crashed, the students did come back the next day to complete the test.
- 95% retention for students and 83% staff. Two staff members resigned (office managers and elective teacher).
- Kayleigh discussed the Teacher Incentive Allotment (\$7000 stipend). Next step is going through negotiation and then an observation period then the distinction is given approximately a year from now.

Committee reports

- Chair Bair presented that the strategic planning session went well.
- Academic Committee - reviewed calendar which will be a consent item to vote on later tonight.
- Finance Committee - Michelle He presented that there were no surprises, we're on track; PPP loan was forgiven. 73 days of cash on hand. \$585,211 in Cadence Bank. Chair Bair asked about cash on hand and John Archer and Kayleigh answered between 90 and 120 days depending on how young/old/small/large the charter is.
- Facilities - Alim presented that we have a \$50k threshold to go out for bids and we do not expect to reach that threshold. Adeeba reported that they are two weeks behind schedule but it appears that they are planning better.
- Governance - Met with three prospective board members (two of which are here today). Will do an assessment on skills.
- Finance - Chair Bair reported that their 100% board giving. Discussed a silent auction.

New Business

- Kayleigh sent out a training on ELL. Please do it so that we complete all of the training before they are due in the fall.
- Moving to the budget - it is still in draft form. John Archer provided some feedback regarding the budget. Kayleigh discussed that they are adding a part-time facilities person to deal with facilities issues that interrupt classroom teaching.

- Really want to do all in person next year so we did increase our transportation to \$150k.
- Phil brought up senate bill to offer a virtual option for schools that can offer it.
- Calendar - Inclusive language (Spring Holiday and Indigenous People Day).
- End time is later (going into June).

Training/Discussion

May Retreat - May 8th

Superintendent Evaluation Update

[Serving and Meeting the Needs of ELL students/families](#)

Budget Draft was shared

Approval of Academic Calendar

Motioned: Ja'Milla Lomas **Seconded:** Michelle He

Vote: 9-0 Approved

Adjournment

Motioned: Ja'Milla Lomas **Seconded:** Philip Wright

Vote: 9-0 Approved