

**Etoile Academy Board Meeting  
September 16, 2021**

**Start: 6:12 p.m. End: 7:51 p.m.**

**Present:**

Michelle Bair (in-person), Alexandra Caritis (in-person), Ja'Milla Lomas (video dial in), Philip Wright (in-person); Kayleigh Colombero (ex-officio, in-person), Rebekah Guill (in-person); Jasmine Lynch (in-person); Tabinda Ghani (in-person); Adeeba Yusuf (in-person); Alim Adatia (video dial in); Emanuel Enriquez (in-person); Brittney Jean-Louis (guest); Cristina Urena (guest); Hanieh Nasizadeh (guest)

Quorum met: Yes

Public Comments: None stated

**Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Minutes were approved.**

**Motioned:** Adeeba Yusuf **Seconded:** Emanuel Enriquez

**Vote: 7-1-0. Approved**

**Superintendent Update:**

- KC introduced guests: Cristina Urena (CAO), Brittney Jean-Louis (recently hired Chief Strategy Officer)
- KC will be planning the board retreat in October.
- Data snapshot will be sent to the state the last Friday in October.
- Student demographics: 28 students with special needs. ELL numbers will stay the same or go up, increase in Asian demographics
- Enrollment: At 335 students. Received 2 more today. Attendance steadily improving.
- COVID plans are on the website. ESSER plan has been updated and uploaded to the website.
- Students took NWEA MAP test on Sept. 9 and 10. The Academic Committee will review the data and share findings with the full board.
- Team appealed Charter First rating of 79 and is awaiting a decision.
- Hiring: Hired all 6 teaching fellows. Added second social worker and second SpED teacher (more than doubled since last year). Hired an Assistant Principal of Instruction.
- Staff Retention: One regrettable FTE has left. 2 unregrettable FTEs have left.
- 99% student retention and only losing students for moving long distances.
- Working hard to finalize the library. Architect selection underway. Furniture ordered.

- Teacher Incentive Allotment: will be capturing teacher performance data this year to be able to give stipends next year.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Ampersand is scheduling a committee call with each group regarding the greenlighting of expansion.
- Committee chairs be on the lookout for a meeting invite from Ampersand
- Alex Bush from Charter School Growth Fund will participate in the finance/facilities committees.
- Board On Track has useful board resources and has a fully developed superintendent evaluation that is a 360 view.

### **Finance/Facilities**

- Committee reviewed the Texas Covid Learning Acceleration Supports grant and were awarded 720k. It is restricted funds. Must use the funds for specific items.
- We have a cash on hand target of 80 days
- Actuals are on par with budget or better
- Ended last fiscal year 59 days with cash on hand. TEA's reimbursement comes in later than the fiscal year end so cash on hand is higher than the report shows.
- Future goal of 80 – 120 days of cash on hand
- Received final construction space from landlord
- Discussed facility options

### **Governance**

- A new board member, Hanieh, was recommended.

### **Academic Achievement**

- The committee reviewed metrics for greenlighting. Will look at NWEA data at next committee meeting

### **Resource Development**

- YES Prep original Board Chair will join the next board meeting as a guest speaker. They have been a great mentor to the Etoile team.
- The committee established a Go Fund Me page for the England/France 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip. Trip may be impacted by the pandemic.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- *Academic Achievement Committee*
  - **Signed TEKS Certification for EMAT funds**
  - *KC will email Phil Alex and Michael to request their signature on a document that states that Etoile uses the TEKS*
- *Expansion Amendment*

- *Etoile can submit the expansion request on Jan. 1 for the lower school expansion. The state approves on a rolling basis.*
- *Looking to start with 3 cohorts for grades K and 1*
  
- **Nomination of Officers**
  - Secretary: Alex Caritis (accepted)
  - Treasurer: John Archer (accepted)
  - Vice Chair: Ja'Milla Lomas (accepted)
  - Chair: Michelle Bair (accepted)
    - **Mentioned:** Emanuel Enriquez **Seconded:** Adeeba Yusuf
    - **Vote: 11-0-0. Approved**
  
- *Superintendent Evaluation is being reviewed and compared with Board on Track evaluation system*
- *State board training for all board members is due in November. If board member needs a log-in, reach out to Missy.*
- *PW suggested to extend the Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting and have the retreat on this date. It will begin at 4:30pm.*

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Motioned: Ja'Milla Lomas Seconded: Jasmine Lynch**

**Vote: 11-0-0. Approved**

**Adjourned at 7:51pm**