



**EASTERSEALS CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES**

September 26, 2019

12:00 p.m.

Easterseals Conference Room A

Board Member(s) Present: Jim Barocas, Bridget Bergens, Lauren Burkhalter, April Chilson, Melissa Burt DeVriese, Ed Dimayuga, Pete Gamble, Myra Middleton-Valentine, Nancy-Ellen Otte, Susan Persis, Paul Schandel, Steve Sevigny, Darlynn Tacinelli, Linda Webster-Duvea, Holly Woerschling, Constance Yuschok

Honorary Board Member(s) Present: Becky Rutland

Staff Members Present: Melissa Chesley, Bev Johnson, Dorothy Lefford, Tracey McLaughlin, Susan Moor

The meeting of the Easter Seals Charter School Board of Directors was called to order at 12:04 pm by Lauren Burkhalter, Chair of the Board.

Ms. Burkhalter welcomed everyone and reminded them that the meeting was open to the public and would not be recorded.

Ms. Burkhalter introduced Margaret Smith, the new Charter School Principal, and asked her to share a little about herself with the board.

GOOD NEWS STORY

Ms. Burkhalter asked Ms. Smith to share the good news story. Ms. Smith described meeting James, age 4, on her first day. James had anger issues and welcomed her with kicking, yelling "no," and name calling; all while becoming her favorite student. Since that day in mid-July, James has made great strides, is making progress in class, and has been placed in a blended classroom. Ms. Smith is very proud of what our teachers have accomplished with James and many other children in similar situations.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Burkhalter referred to the consent agenda and asked if anyone would like an agenda item pulled and discussed. With no request, Ms. Burkhalter asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the June 13, 2019 Charter School Board of Directors meeting.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Jim Barocas to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes of the June 13, 2019 Charter School Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Myra Middleton-Valentine and unanimously passed by the Board of Directors.*

TREASURER'S REPORTX:\2 BOARD DOCUMENTS\2019-2020 Board\9-26-19 Meeting\9-26-19 Charter School Board Meeting Minutes.docxX:\2 BOARD DOCUMENTS\2019-2020 Board\9-26-19 Meeting\9-26-19 Charter School Board Meeting Minutes.docx

Ms. Burkhalter called on Melissa Burt DeVriese to represent the Treasurer's Report.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ed Dimayuga to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Steve Sevigny and unanimously passed by the Board of Directors.*

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Burkhalter called on Melissa Chesley to introduce John Olivari of Olivari & Associates to present the results of the 2018-2019 audit. Mr. Olivari provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Board of Directors of the audit highlights. Mr. Olivari provided each board member a copy of the governance letter which indicated that there were no audit findings, no difficulties encountered in performing the audit, no adjusting entries, no disagreements with management, no consultations by management with other independent can accountants, nor other audit findings or issues.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Constance Yuschok to approve the annual audit for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Jim Barocas and unanimously passed by the Board of Directors.*

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms. Burkhalter called on Bev Johnson to give the Principal's Report. Ms. Johnson reported that engagement with both parents and staff had increased substantially at the Daytona school. Ms. Smith has already made it clear to staff that she is there to support them, whether it be training, covering in the classroom, or getting down on the floor with the children. FTE week is coming up and staffing is expected to increase significantly as it approaches.

Significant cosmetic upgrades were made at the DeLand center over the summer and Ms. Johnson invited board members to visit and see the improvements. The purchase of the building is still unsettled and, while the hope is that the new owner will allow us to remain, she and Ms. Chesley have been seeking potential new locations without any success as of yet.

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS

Ms. Johnson explained that teachers in the Charter Schools who did not have the exact certifications for their classroom were considered to be working out-of-field. They are required to have teacher certification for pre-school and ESE certification to be considered in-field, but as long as they are making demonstrable progress toward the required certifications, they are able to continue teaching. There are currently two teachers at the Daytona location that are recent graduates and therefore have to earn

their certification within one year or will not be eligible to teach next year. The certification exam is very difficult and few pass it on the first attempt. The State is planning to lower the exam fee to make that less of a barrier, but it is yet to be implemented. Ms. Johnson shared the list of teachers currently working out-of-field and reminded the board that, per State Department of Education requirements, the teachers had to be approved.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Jim Barocas to approve the Charter School teachers working out-of-field. The motion was seconded by April Chilson and unanimously passed by the Board of Directors.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Burkhalter asked Tracey McLaughlin, Executive Assistant, if anyone from the public had requested to speak. Ms. McLaughlin reported that no requests had been received. Ms. Burkhalter asked if anyone present would like to speak. No comments were received.

Ms. Burkhalter adjourned the Easterseals Charter School Board of Directors meeting at 12:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bev Johnson".

Bev Johnson, President/CEO
Easterseals Northeast Central Florida Charter School