



EASTERSEALS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Public Meeting

Present: Lauren Burkhalter, Chair; Steve Sevigny, Incoming Chair; Melissa Burt DeVriese, Vice Chair; Paul Schandel, Treasurer; Nancy-Ellen Otte, Secretary; Kelly Parsons Kwiatek, Immediate Past Chair

Staff Present: Bev Johnson, President/CEO; Melissa Chesley, CFO; Dodie Derck, Executive Assistant

Lauren Burkhalter, Board Chair announced that the meeting was open to the public and would be recorded. She then called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Upon calling the meeting to order Ms. Burkhalter asked if there was anyone from the public present and wanting to make comment. Having no outside guests with comments Ms. Burkhalter asked for a motion to the minutes from the 2 previous meetings as there was not quorum to approve them at the last meeting.

A motion was made to approve the Charter Board Meeting Minutes from the October 6, 2020 meeting and the February 23, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Burkhalter call on Melissa Chesley, CFO, to provide the financial statements.

Ms. Chesley reviewed the month ending May 31, 2021 Financial Statements. After brief discussion Ms. Burkhalter asked for a motion to approve the financial statements. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Burkhalter then asked Ms. Chesley to present the 2021-2022 Easterseals Charter School Budget.

Ms. Chesley presented the 2021-2022 budget indicating there is an expected loss due to decreased funding from Tallahassee DOE to Volusia County Schools. While FTE and enrollment in general is expected to be up from prior year, per student rates and increasing expenses are causing a significant shortfall. The board discussed the feasibility of continuing as a Charter School and asked Ms. Johnson, President/CEO, to speak with Dr. Fritz, VCS Superintendent about our options going forward with the last year of our Charter contract. Ms. Johnson stated she had already spoken briefly to Dr. Fritz and that he is aware that we need an in person meeting to discuss what options/support might be available to us in order to continue. As soon as that meeting is scheduled Ms. Johnson will make the board aware. Dr. Sevigny stated that he would clear his schedule to attend a meeting.

After the budget was presented Ms. Burkhalter asked for a motion to accept the 2021-2022 Charter School budget. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Burkhalter called on Ms. Johnson to present the Principal's Report.

Ms. Johnson announced that the school had a new Principal, Dawn Melani. Ms. Melani had hoped to be in attendance, but had technical difficulties and was unable to join the meeting. While Ms. Melani is new to the role of Principal she has been with Easterseals for 2 years, 1 as a teacher in Deland and 1 as a curriculum/IEP specialist serving both schools.

Ms. Johnson announced that enrollment was strong for the start of the school year and that children were being staffed weekly.

Ms. Johnson also announced that the renovation that was taking place in the Early Childhood Education Center was coming along nicely. There have been delays in receiving furniture and supplies, but the hope of having the floors complete over the summer looks promising. All painting is almost complete as well. Ms. Johnson was able to show pictures of the walls and the board notes the fresh new look and feel.

Ms. Burkhalter asked if there was any additional business.

Ms. Burkhalter asked if anyone had any recommendations for additions to the Charter School Board. Paul Schandel stated he would speak with some colleagues in the education field.

Ms. Burkhalter called on Ms. Derck to give an update on who needs to renew or initiate Sunshine training and the process and deadlines.

Ms. Derck stated she would provide everyone details via email. Melissa Burt DeVriese, Bev Johnson and Lauren Burkhalter need to complete the refresher. Dawn Melani, Ed Dimayuga and Holly Zitzka need to complete the full training.

Having no other business Ms. Burkhalter adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.