

**Quality Education Academy (QEA)  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2022  
Meeting took place via Zoom**

**Members Present:**

Chairman Dr. Jefferson Caruthers  
CEO Tonya Bellanger  
John Foxworth  
James Gadson  
Adolphus Coplin  
Roy Oliphant  
Walter Weathers  
James Covington  
Dr. Kendra March  
Ronald Jessup

**Absent Members:**

**Staff (S) / Parents (P) / Visitors (V)**

Dr. T. Turner (S)                      S. Rooks (S)                      T. Piper (S)

**Welcome**

The QEA meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm. It was determined a quorum of Board Members was present, thus, the meeting continued. The Chairman proceeded by asking if there was anything in tonight’s agenda that would present a conflict of interest to any of the attending Board Members. There was no conflict of interest stated by any of the attending Board Members. He also asked Board Members if there would be any additions to tonight’s agenda. There were no additions stated. The Chairman called for the reading of our mission, vision, and core values statements. These statements were read by CEO Ms. Bellanger.

**Review and approval of February 15, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

The Chairman gave Board members an opportunity to review the Board Meeting Minutes from the previous February 15, 2022 Board Meeting. He then called for a motion to receive the minutes into the public record. Mr. Gadson made a motion to receive the February 14, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes into public record with proper correction if any is needed. Mr. Oliphant seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously. There were no stated corrections.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**From the Chairman**

The Chairman stated he would once again like to commend the CEO and staff for the high level of excellence maintained throughout the pandemic. He added the school

has continued to move forward in a positive manner and it is the hope and desire of the Board that we will continue to remain committed and on this high level through the remainder of the 2021 -2022 school year.

### **Old Business**

The Board revisited our current mask mandate policy. Ms. Bellanger indicated a few parents were inquiring of our status since other school districts were moving to an optional mask policy. It is Ms. Bellanger's recommendation that QEA continues to wear masks throughout the remainder of March and revisit the policy again at the next Board meeting in April. The Chairman called for a motion to vote on the mask mandate policy. Mr. Oliphant made a motion to continue with the current mask mandate policy in place until the next Board Meeting in April. Mr. Gadson seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

### **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

The CEO addressed the Board in the following areas:

#### **Academic**

Ms. Bellanger told Board Members we are starting to see improvements with our latest benchmarks. Therefore, we continue to center our focus on small group instruction and after-school tutoring.

#### **Operational**

Ms. Bellanger informed Board members of some of the important events taking place throughout the month:

- The next round of Check-Ins/Benchmarks is scheduled for late April
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> marks the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter; Report cards will go home with scholars
- March 24<sup>th</sup> - Spring Showcase - The Spring Showcase will be virtual this year and will highlight special activities the scholars and staff have done throughout the year
- March 25<sup>th</sup> will be a Teacher Workday (no school for scholars)
- Following the Teacher's Workday, we will begin prepping for EOC/EOG
- QEA is now providing weekly Covid testing of scholars and staff (the testing kits are provided by Concentric and local nurses contracted to perform tests onsite); Parents must opt-in for scholars to be tested

#### **Athletics Update:**

- The men's JV Basketball team won the Conference Championship; the Varsity Women's Basketball team won the State Tournament championship; and the Varsity Men's Basketball team won the USA National Prep Tournament Signature Series Championship

### **Enrollment**

As of February 28, 2022, QEA has an enrollment of 606 Scholars. We have had a cumulative total of 52 students transfer out and 27 new enrollees. QEA has a total of 447 scholars who have currently confirmed re-enrollment for the 2022 -2023 school year. There are 105 new applications.

### **Staff**

QEA staff count continues at 104 as of February 28, 2022.

We are currently planning for the 2022 -2023 staffing needs as we are aware some teachers will not be returning due to relocating, returning to school full time, and accepting other positions.

### **Financial**

Ms. Bellanger reviewed the Financial Report for January 2022.

### **Governance Policies**

Ms. Bellanger informed Board Members that each year all schools who plan to offer a summer program must have a written summer plan that has been signed and approved by their local Board and submitted to NCDPI. The 2021 -2022 Summer Program Plan for QEA is as follows:

- Instructional Dates: June 6, 2022 – June 21, 2022
- Number of instructional days: 12 (scholars must attend at least 9 days to test)
- Number of instructional hours per day: 4 hours
- Total number of instructional hours: 48 hours
- Number of Testing Days: 3 days (June 22 – 24, 2022)

Ms. Bellanger inquired about the Grievance Committee and who were the members of the committee. Chairman Dr. Caruthers indicated he would make contact with a previous member to get more insight for a future discussion regarding the committee.

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the 2021 Summer Program Plan. Mr. Gadson made a motion to approve the 2021 Summer Program Plan and Dr. March seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll-call method. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman called for a motion to receive the CEO's report and the Finance report. Mr. Oliphant made a motion to receive the CEO's report and the Finance report. Dr. March seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll-call method. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Bellanger shared with Board Members that NCDPI will be conducting the Consolidated Program Monitoring for Title I, Title II and Title III programs. This evaluation will take place on March 24th. DPI will interview with a select group of parents, teachers, and School Leaders. The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure our school is in compliance and is providing quality programs for our scholars.

Before closing the meeting Ms. Bellanger also told Board Members that QEA is looking to rebuild our theater program. We were contacted by a local start-up group who would like to assist in this effort. Ms. Bellanger will continue speaking with the leaders of C.A.R.D. Theatre Company (Creative Arts ReDefined) to see about opportunities for QEA scholars.

### **Adjournment**

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Weathers made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Foxworth seconded. The vote was put through using the roll-call method. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

### **Announcement**

The next Quality Education Academy Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:00 pm. A notification to all Board Members will be sent prior to the scheduled meeting. A copy of the previous month's minutes will be emailed to all Board Members in addition to the meeting notification.

Minutes recorded by **S. Adams**