

Quality Education Academy (QEA)
Board Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2021
Meeting took place via Zoom

Members Present:

Chairman - Dr. Jefferson Caruthers, Jr
CEO - Tonya Bellanger
James Gadson
Walter Weathers
Adolphus Coplin
Roy Oliphant
Dr. Kendra March
Ronald Jessup

Absent Members:

John Foxworth
James Covington

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

M. Gomez (P) V. Hairston (V)

Welcome

The QEA meeting was called to order at 6:51 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 stated additions to the agenda. The Chairman called for the reading of our mission, vision, and core values statements and these statements were read by CEO Mrs. Bellanger.

Reading and approval of the April 12, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

After allowing Board Members an opportunity to read over the minutes from the previous April 12, 2021 Board Meeting, the Chairman called for a motion to receive and record the minutes into public record. Mr. Oliphant made a motion to receive the minutes into public record with proper correction, if any and Dr. March seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

We had a complimentary comment for Elementary School Teacher Mrs. Cromartie from Ms. Meagan Gomez, a QEA Parent.

From the Chairman

The Chairman said he would like to commend the CEO and staff for the excellent way in which they have kept things running as smoothly as possible this year. Despite the abnormal circumstances, QEA has been able to maintain our culture and continue with our annual QEA events such as Legacy, Bestowal of Blessings, and Graduation. The Chairman said he trusts QEA will continue to move forward and maintain our quality level.

Old Business

There is no old business at this time.

New Business

There is no new business at this time.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO addressed the Board in the following areas:

Academic

Mrs. Bellanger notified Board Members QEA is currently gearing up for End-of-Grade and End-of-Course Testing which will take place the last week of May into the first week of June.

QEA will also hold a Summer Learning Program to address the learning loss due to the pandemic. The program will last 4 to 5 weeks (depending on the school level). Reading, Math, Science, and High School End-of-Course subjects will be the focus areas of learning. We will also incorporate at least one enrichment activity such as music, art, or sports.

Operations

Mrs. Bellanger informed Board Members that although student screening is no longer required by the CDC or NCDHHS, QEA continues to screen both staff and scholars on a daily basis via temperature checks and health attestation forms.

She also shared the fact that our women's Soccer Team is ranked #1 in the conference with a 4 to 0 record.

Mrs. Bellanger made the Board aware that after several conversations with the Athletic Director, it is the recommendation that QEA restart our football program with a Middle School Football team. This will give time to stabilize and build the program before adding a high school team. Following a brief discussion, Board Members put the recommendation to a vote. The Chairman called for a motion to form a Middle School Football Team next school year. Mr. Gadson made a motion to move forward with the plan of creating a Middle School Football Team and Dr. March seconded. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

Lastly, Mrs. Bellanger said given the school's push for an increase in enrollment for the upcoming school year, QEA will need to consider the possibility of expansion in order to house all of our scholars. Possible options are renting/purchasing a mobile classroom unit and/or renting space from surrounding organizations. In regards to Mrs. Bellanger's request for recommendations on QEA's plan for possible expansion for the upcoming school year, the chairman suggested that an exploratory committee for expansion be formed. This committee will consist of CEO, Mrs. Bellanger, Chairman, Dr. Caruthers, and Board Member Adolphus Coplin.

Enrollment

As of April 30, 2021 we have a net loss of 43 scholars. We have 11 new enrollees and 54 withdrawals. Currently we have a total of 653 scholars.

QEA held our annual school lottery on April 15, 2021. 114 new applicants were accepted for next school year. Additionally we have received 25 more applications since that date. We are on track to enroll more scholars than this current school year which was our highest enrollment in the school's history.

Staffing

Our total staff count remains unchanged at 100.

Financial

Mrs. Bellanger reviewed the Financial Report for March 2021. She let Board Members know we are still waiting on approval for the PPP Loan Forgiveness Application. QEA will receive ESSER II (Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief II) and ESSER III (American Rescue Plan Act) Federal Funding. This funding is specifically to address learning loss due to COVID closures and virtual learning. She asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Governance Policies

Mrs. Bellanger explained that due to a NCDPI policy change, there is an update on the Beginning Teacher Support Plan. The updates are being reviewed by our consultant and included in the Board packet for review. There was a brief discussion and then the Chairman called for a motion to approve the update to the Beginning Teacher Support Plan. Mr. Gadson made a motion to approve the Beginning Teacher Support Plan and Mr. Coplin seconded the motion. The motion 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 Financial report. Mr. Oliphant made a motion to receive the CEO's report and the Financial report. Mr. Jessup seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Oliphant made a motion to adjourn. Dr. March seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Announcement

The next Quality Education Academy Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2021 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