

Quality Education Academy (QEA)
(K-12)
Board Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2020
Meeting took place via Zoom

Members Present:

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

Absent Members:

John Foxworth
James Covington

Visitors:

Attorney Stephon Bowens

Staff

T. Turner	J. Greer Kodja
K. Poindexter	A. Martin
L. Garriga	S. Vaird
J. Blake	A. Cromartie
N. Giles	K. Hamilton
C. Jones	A. Pinilla
A. Pinson	J. Mitchell

Parents

Maegan Gomez
Natoya Jackson

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at **6:00 pm**. It was determined that a quorum of Board Members was present thus the meeting proceeded. The Chairman asked if there was anything in tonight's agenda that would present a conflict of interest to any of the attending Board Members. No one stated any conflict of interest. He also asked if any attending Board Member had anything they wish to add to tonight's agenda. There were no additions to the agenda. The Chairman called for the reading of our Mission, Vision, and Core Values statements. These statements were read by CEO Mrs. Bellanger.

Reading and approval of the September 14, 2020 Minutes

After allowing Board Members an opportunity to read over minutes from the previous September 14, 2020 Board Meeting, the Chairman called for a motion to receive the minutes into public record. Mr. Oliphant offered a motion to receive the minutes into public record with proper correction, if any, and Mr. Gadson seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously. There were no noted corrections made.

Public Comment

We had several staff members visiting. Parent/teacher, Maegan Gomez, one of the visitors stated she would like to publicly acknowledge the great job the CEO, principals, and teachers at Quality Education Academy have been doing both in the school and in the community.

From the Chairman

The Chairman stated he would also like to thank CEO Mrs. Bellanger and the staff for all the adjustments that have been made throughout this pandemic. He assured Mrs. Bellanger that her well implemented actions and decisions have been both backed and supported by the Board. The Chairman also welcomed newly appointed Board Members Dr. Kendra March and Mr. Ronald Jessup to the Board.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

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

After thanking all Board and Staff Members for attending tonight's Board meeting, CEO Mrs. Bellanger informed everyone that currently all learning continues to take place virtually. However, she said she would like to share her recommendation for the transition to Hybrid In-Person Learning beginning Monday, November 2, 2020, if it is agreed upon by the Board. Mrs. Bellanger, added 1st Quarter ends on Monday, October 16, 2020 and that Beginning of Grade testing will take place once in-person instruction resumes.

Mrs. Bellanger, proceeded with the plan for re-entry of In-Person Instruction for QEA:

Phase 1 will start with K, 1st, 2nd, 6th, and 7th grades returning for in-person instruction.

- We will operate under the Plan B Hybrid Schedule with an A Group and B Group to maintain 50% capacity in classrooms
- Group A will attend in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday and participate in virtually on Wednesday and Thursday
- Group B will attend in-person instruction on Wednesday and Thursday and participate virtually on Monday and Tuesday
- All students will participate virtually on Friday
- We are still required to offer a virtual component for those families who wish to remain in virtual learning. Once a parent/guardian chooses In-Person Instruction or Virtual Instruction, the instruction option cannot be changed.
- Scholars will remain in the Hybrid Instruction phase until the Governor approves Plan A operation for all grade levels.
- Breakfast, lunch, and snack will be served as pre-packaged, grab- and -go meals.
- Kindergarten-5th grade classrooms using shared tables will have plexi-glass units separating the table into 2 or 4 sections.
- 6th-12th grade classrooms have individual desks arranged according to the recommended 6-foot distance between each desk.
- A Health Attestation Form will be completed by all staff and scholars' parent/guardian prior to returning to in-person instruction.

- All staff and scholar K-12 will be required to wear cloth face mask/covering inside the buildings. Face masks can only be removed during breakfast, lunch, snack and outdoor play.
- All Staff and Scholars' temperatures will be taken daily prior to entering the building. Any person with a temperature above 99.9°F will not be permitted to enter the building.
- All Staff and Scholars' health will be monitored throughout the day. Any person exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 will be isolated in a designated area. Staff must leave campus immediately and/or a scholar's parent/guardian will be contacted to pick the scholar up from school. The person showing symptoms must be tested for Covid-19 and receive the results prior to returning to the school building.

Provided Phase 1 goes well, Phase 2 will begin Monday, November 30, 2020 and will include grades 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, and a small group of High School. Phase 3 will begin January 11, 2021 and will include grades 9th – 12th.

Operational

QEA continues to follow all DHHS (Department of Human Health Services) and NCDPI (North Carolina Department of Public Instruction) guidelines for operations. Mrs. Bellanger also provided the survey results that were completed by staff members and Parents/Guardians earlier this month.

Enrollment/Staffing

Mrs. Bellanger informed Board Members that we have a total of 700 scholars enrolled for the current school year. The total number of staff for the current school year is 101. There were no new hires or terminations as of September 30, 2020.

Financial

Mrs. Bellanger notified Board Members QEA received a \$5,000.00 Walmart Community Grant to assist with Remote Instruction Needs. This grant is greatly appreciated and will greatly benefit several of our scholars. Mrs. Bellanger then reviewed the Financial Report for August 2020. She allowed Board Members the opportunity to ask questions. There was a request for Ms. Adams to send a copy of the Financial Codes for the new Board Members prior to the next Board Meeting.

Mrs. Bellanger provided the proposed 2020 – 2021 School Budget for review again and gave Board Members time to ask follow-up questions.

The Chairman called for a motion to accept the re-entry plan for In-Person Instruction. Mr. Coplin made the motion to accept the re-entry plan for In-Person Instruction. Dr. March seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried with the vote being 7 for and 1 against.

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the CEO's report, Financial Report and proposed 2020 -2021 School Budget. Mr. Oliphant made a motion to accept the CEO's Report, Financial Report, and proposed School Budget. Mr. Jessup seconded. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bellanger made a request to follow up with a meeting on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6:00 PM to review Covid-19 case information and reassess, if necessary, the return plan. Mrs. March seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

Governance Policies

No policies to update at this time.

Adjournment

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gadson made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Oliphant seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Announcement

The next Quality Education Academy Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 26, 2020 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.

Upcoming Board Meetings

November 9, 2020

February 8, 2021

March 8, 2021

April 12, 2021

May 10, 2021

June 14, 2021

Minutes recorded by **S. Adams**