

**Quality Education Academy (QEA)  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2022  
Meeting took place via Zoom**

**Members Present:**

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

**Absent Members:**

John Foxworth

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

Mrs. A. Booth-Horton (S)   Ms. N. Brabham (S)   Ms. D. Evans (S)   Dr. T. Turner (S)

**Welcome**

The QEA meeting was called to order at 6:04 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 to the agenda. 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 November 8, 2021 and December 7, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

The Chairman gave Board Members an opportunity to review the Board Meeting Minutes from the previous November 8, 2021 and December 7, 2021 Board Meetings. He then called for a motion to receive the minutes into the public record. Mr. Coplin made a motion to receive the November 8, 2021 and December 7, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes into public record with proper correction if any is needed. Dr. March seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**From the Chairman**

The Chairman said we are faithfully pressing forwards into the 2021 – 2022 year and we continue to support and assist our CEO in any way we can. He thanked the CEO for playing such a vital role in keeping parents and staff informed throughout this pandemic. The Chairman also complimented our CEO for keeping staff in place (by partnering with the Health Department to ensure the majority of staff members were vaccinated and able

to continue to work without losing a lot of time off). The Chairman asked if anyone had any comments or concerns about Covid and the impact it is having on the school.

Ms. Bellanger told Board Members the school is definitely being affected by Covid. Currently we have 4 teachers out awaiting covid testing results. We have two eighth grade classes quarantined due to covid exposure, one first grade class, one second grade class, and six high school classes are also quarantined as well. Ms. Bellanger added we are very concerned with the recent surge in covid however, we will try to remain open and continue providing in-person learning as we have determined this is how our scholars learn best. In the meantime, we must continuously watch and study the research data in order to stay ahead in this situation. We must also consistently practice our safety protocols.

Ms. Bellanger informed Board Members that our air filtration system was checked while we were out of school for Winter break to ensure the air quality remains safe. She also let Board Members know we are strongly encouraging both staff members, as well as scholars, be vaccinated. QEA still performs temperature checks daily and perform daily, periodic wipe downs of cabinets, doors, desks, sinks, and anything non-porous.

### **Old Business**

The Chairman said the committee for rent review and contracts has not been able to meet due to the surge in covid and bad weather. However, they do plan on meeting as soon as possible.

The Chairman called for a motion to vote on the mask mandate. Mr. Weathers made a motion to continue with the mask mandate we currently have in place. Mr. Oliphant seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

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

The CEO addressed the Board in the following areas:

#### **Academic**

Ms. Bellanger told Board Members, the preliminary data on Check-In 1 Benchmark Testing is in. She said the test scores remain relatively low, we still have a lot of work to do but we are getting there. Our goal is to break the scholars down into even smaller groups in order to target those students who continue to struggle with reading and math skills. Ms. Bellanger announced Promethean Smartboards have been installed in all K-12 classrooms. By integrating this technology in the classrooms, we are providing additional resources for instruction.

#### **Operational**

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

January 14<sup>th</sup> will be the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

January 17<sup>th</sup> we will observe MLK Jr. Holiday (No school for scholars or staff)

January 18<sup>th</sup> will be a Teacher Workday (No school for scholars)

We had one Senior, Raven Preston, from our Women's Basketball Team to commit to Elon University

### **Enrollment**

QEA currently has an enrollment of 627 Scholar. We have had a total of 27 students transfer out and a total of 23 new enrollees.

### **Staff**

QEA has a staff count of 104 as of December 31, 2021. We have had 1 new hire in the high school (math).

### **Financial**

Ms. Bellanger reviewed the Financial Report for November 2021. She informed Board Members that NC approved bonuses for all State employees (NC SL 2021 -180) – Funding for bonuses will come from State budget PRC 141 – State Fiscal Recovery Fund Bonus - \$1000 per employee, plus \$500 for any employee whose gross salary is less than \$75,000. These bonuses must be paid by January 31, 2022.

Ms. Bellanger directed Board Members’ attention to a Summary of the Financial Audit fiscal year ending 06/30/21 document at the end of the report. After briefly going over the summary, Ms. Bellanger let Board Members know that we will be mailing out a hard copy of the complete audit within the next few weeks.

### **Governance Policies**

There were no policies to update at this time.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were no questions. He then 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. Mr. Jessup seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Weathers made a motion to adjourn and Dr. March seconded the motion. The motion was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

### **Announcement**

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