

**Quality Education Academy (QEA)
Board Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2021
Meeting took place via Zoom**

Members Present:

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

Absent Members:

John Foxworth

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

A. Martin (S)	N. Stowe (S)	T. Howard (S)
T. Turner (S)	K. Brabham (S)	M. Gomez (P)

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. Mr. Gadson stated the Board needs to approve the previously mailed Annual Audit Report. The Chairman called for the reading of our mission, vision, and core values statements which were read by CEO Mrs. Bellanger.

Reading and approval of the March 8, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

After allowing Board Members an opportunity to read over the minutes from the previous March 8, 2021 Board Meeting, the Chairman called for a motion to receive and record the minutes into public record. There was one noted correction on page 2 under the Staffing heading, the last sentence should read "This includes one new hire (TA)" instead of "This includes on new hire (TA)". Mr. Gadson made a motion to receive the minutes into public record with proper correction and Ms. 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 the Elementary School Principal and Teaching staff from Ms. Maegan Gomez, one of our QEA Parents.

From the Chairman

The Chairman said he is truly appreciative of all the efforts and hard work the CEO and staff have provided since the beginning of this school year. He is equally impressed by the way the CEO has continuously watched and followed the orders and guidelines of the DHHS and NCDPI for our daily operations. Perhaps it is this cautious and well thought-

out planning that has resulted in maintaining a safe and hygienic working environment for our faculty and scholars. The Chairman then encouraged the School Leaders to remain committed and continue to press forwards. He concluded with saying, “We must all continue to work together to ensure the success of each and every one of our scholars”.

Old Business

There is no old business at this time.

New Business

After briefly discussing the previously mailed Annual Financial Audit report, the Chairman called for a motion to accept the report. Mr. Coplin made a motion to accept the Audit Report and Mr. Jessup seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Executive Officer’s Report

Mrs. Bellanger began by saying she would like to take the time to thank Board Members as well as our School Leaders for all of the support they have shown throughout this trying time. She then stated that tonight she would like for the School Leaders to address the Board in the area of academics.

Academic

Elementary School Leader, Ms. A. Martin (K-5), Middle School Leader, Mrs. N. Stowe (6-8), and High School Leader, Mr. T. Howard (10- 12) began by individually introducing themselves to Board Members and then they briefly discussed the recent student data as a result of benchmark and assessment testing at each school level. They followed up by providing intervention strategies being used to address learning loss due to the Covid pandemic, school closures and virtual learning. Each Leader told Board Members the core curriculum their scholars are currently using, provided Board Members with current scores from the testing baselines and discussed their theories as to the reasons behind the scoring strengths as well as weaknesses. The Leaders suggested some online resources and teaching methods that they feel will assist in helping to bridge the learning gap the pandemic has created.

Once the Leaders had concluded their presentation, Mrs. Bellanger informed Board Members that the 3rd quarter ended on March 19th and report cards went out on March 24th. Currently we are still waiting on word from the State in regards to testing waivers and accountability measures.

Mrs. Bellanger announced that next school year QEA plans to introduce two new programs for the 2021-2022 School Year – AOPA High School Aviation STEM Curriculum and Bee Geek Pharaoh IT Academy. These programs will be elective for our High School Scholars. Students who complete the programs will be able to receive certification in the various IT, STEM and Aviation fields.

Operations

- Spring Intersession took place Monday, March 29th – Friday, April 2nd

- We had Data day on Friday, April 2nd
- Saturday, May 29th will be our Senior graduation ceremony. Mrs. Bellanger recommended an In-person ceremony for the 24 seniors and asked the Board for their input/suggestions. Each senior will be limited to 5 guests and there will be limited staffing in order to maintain social distancing. Everyone will be required to wear a mask. At the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Weathers made a motion to hold the graduation in-person and Dr. March seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.
- Friday, June 4th we will have our Kindergarten, 5th and 8th grade ceremonies. These ceremonies will be drive thru.
- Women's Soccer is off to a successful start, however, the Track and Field program has been postponed until next school year.

Enrollment

As of March 31, 2021 we have a net loss of 31 scholars. We have 9 new enrollees and 40 withdrawals. Currently we have a total of 665 scholars.

Staffing

Our total staff count is 100. We had one resignation.

Financial

CEO Mrs. Bellanger reviewed the Financial Report for February 2021. She asked if there were any questions. Mrs. Bellanger also informed Board Members about the CAPIT Grant, a grant that QEA was awarded to provide resources and funding for reading intervention in the elementary school.

The Chairman called for a motion to receive the CEO's report and the financial report. Mr. Gadson made a motion to receive the CEO's report and the financial report. Mr. Weathers seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman stated the Board needs to vote on the Investment signatories as they haven't been updated since the CEO transition. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the Investment Signatories for QEA would be Chairman Dr. Jefferson Caruthers, CEO Ms. Tonya Bellanger, and CFO Mrs. Tanya Hinton.

The Chairman called for a motion to vote on the Investment Signatories. Mr. Coplin made the motion to approve the Investment Policy signatories and Dr. March seconded the motion. The vote was put through using the roll call method. The vote was eight for and one against. The majority carried. Mrs. Bellanger stated she will email the Investment Policy Statement to the Board so members can review again if needed.

Dr. March said before closing she would like to applaud Mrs. Turner for all of the hard work and effort she put into the Legacy program.

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 7:36 PM.

Announcement

The next Quality Education Academy Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 10, 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.

Upcoming Board Meetings

June 14, 2021

Minutes recorded by S. Adams