



MINNESOTA EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING ACADEMY

Minnesota Excellence in Learning Academy April 16, 2020 Board Meeting via Zoom

1. Record Attendance and Guests:

- a. Board Members: Joseph Scherer, Julie Eduputa (Absent), Emily Johnson, David Sundstrom, Tomika Jackson-Davis, Paula Barros
- b. Guests: Antonio Zambrano, Danielle Fields, Nichole Schmidt, Carrie Bakken

2. Call the Meeting to Order:

- a. Joseph Scherer called the meeting to order at 5: 03

3. Public Forum

- a. N/A

4. Approval of the Agenda: David moved. Emily seconded. Unanimously approved.

5. Approval of the Prior Board Meeting Minutes: (February 20, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes):

- a. David moved. Paula seconded. Unanimously approved.

6. Operations report:

- a. Virtual board meeting due to Covid 19 Pandemic Provision approved by an Executive Order by MN Governor Walz.
- b. Virtual voting Clarifications
 - i. Roll all- need to say your vote after your name is called
- c. Financial report: Nicole
 - i. Recommending to not approve revised budget until June because of unknowns because of Stimulus money from Covid 19
 - ii. Working on a Budget of 220. We are at 211 and averaging 217 so pretty close to on budget.
 - iii. MELA was approved for the line of credit last month. We've used \$50,000 and have \$250,000 remaining.
 - iv. Motion to approve the February FY20 and the March FY20 Packet. Emily moved. Tomika seconded. Unanimously accepted.
- d. HR Updates:
 - i. New para to cover Mrs. Patton's Parental Leave
- e. Director of Operations Report:
 - i. Updates:
 1. We are reaching students with transportation to deliver food and work packets.



MINNESOTA EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING ACADEMY

2. Sending pictures of school work for the day to the teacher or the paraprofessional will call and take down the answers daily.
3. Sent chromebooks home with Paraprofessionals to be able to connect while we are on Flex Learning Days.
4. Computers to households on loan to give access for all families.
5. Helping families fill out applications for phone and internet and public assistance
6. Shares from teachers on the board.
7. Huge thank you to all the staff of MELA making FLD work

f. COVID-19 Operations Planning

- i. Webinar for Boards
 1. All staff watched
- ii. Plan in case the Board Chair or Executive Director gets sick
 1. Suggesting a vice-chair that can take the place just in case
 - a. David Sandstrom will be vice-chair for the board. Emily Motioned. Paula seconded. Unanimously accepted.
 - b. Antonio Zambrano will step in if Danielle Fields gets sick.

7. Distinctive Schools Update:

- a. Network updates: Distinctive Schools is planning to take over another school in MI that is struggling.

8. Board of Directors Update:

- a. Appreciation for all of the staff.

9. MELA Executive Director Report:

- a. Academic Update:
 - i. Winter benchmarking
 1. We've made so much growth
 2. Our hard work is working
- b. Strategic Plan update
 - i. Student response: Almost all
 - ii. Staff: Almost all
 - iii. Parents: only 20 responses
 - iv. Chicago is working on a final report by end of month
- c. Jodi Markworth Fund Purchase suggestions
 - i. Bridges is not giving away a grant anymore
 - ii. IQS is not giving the grant anymore



MINNESOTA EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING ACADEMY

- iii. Little free library- Quote of Jodi- The invisible string- in front of the main office of the school
 - 1. Antonio figuring out pricing for a plaque for the little free library
- iv. Use the money to purchase a math curriculum
 - 1. Bridges has pre and post assessments, scope and sequence, lessons are already made, uses visual models
 - 2. \$20,000 for the program
 - 3. Everyone on the board agrees to use the money for the Bridges math curriculum
- d. IQS update
 - i. Making sure all the basic needs are met
 - ii. Supporting each other to best support the students
- e. Q-Comp update
 - i. We do not need to rewrite plans
 - ii. All stipends will be paid because groups are still working
 - iii. Stipends will not be awarded for student growth
 - 1. For this year alone we will use the money for next year or roll it into another bucket
 - 2. Suggestion to roll money over into next year student growth and achievement
 - 3. Teacher evaluations will not be made after March 15 for this school year
 - a. Teacher's evaluation stipends will be paid out this year based on previous observations- Now up to Q-Comp committee to approve

10. Board Training Matrix:

- a. Update the board matrix

11. **Adjourned at:** 6:23 PM by Joseph Scherer. Next meeting will be: Thursday June 4, 2020 at 5:00 in the school cafeteria unless online due to COVID-19.