

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

The Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. Board Chairman, Mr. Julio Vázquez, called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. A quorum was established.

### **Board Members Present:**

Julio Vázquez, Eugenio Marlin, Angélica Pérez-Delgado, Ray Ciccarelli, Dr. Miriam Vázquez, Ryan Caster, Robert Frasier Jr., and Miguel Meléndez.

### **Board Member Absent:**

Dr. Marcia DeJesús-Rueff, and Nelida Torres.

### **School Staff Present:**

Sandra Chevalier-Blackman, Nikki Kersbergen, Wanda Adames, Leslie Rivera, Matt Kleehammer, John Harris, Vincent Alexander, Morgan Krolak, Laura Muñoz-Thompson, Tara Ramirez, and Damaris Saltares.

### **Other Guests:**

Craig Stevens (Bonadio Grp)

Mr. Vázquez asked to change the agenda's order to allow the auditors to present. Mr. Craig Stevens from the Bonadio Group reviewed the 2022 Financial Audit.

### **2022 Financial Audit:**

- Due to the accounting firm's staff shortages and a new school finance manager. The audit was completed passed its due date.
- The audit shows that there was some unrecorded activity.
- The school's CEO, Ms. Chevalier Blackman, will prepare and execute a corrective action plan.
- The school will re-engage an accountant as a consultant to assist Ms. Kersbergen as she continues to learn the full scope of the job.

Mr. Ciccarelli commented that a late audit report is unacceptable because the new finance manager had a consultant working with her.

The 2022 Financial Audit was presented for approval. Ms. Pérez-Delgado moved the motion, and Mr. Marlin seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **MISSION MOMENT:**

The ELT program presented the Mission Moment. A video presentation was shared on the recap of what elementary and high school students did for Black History Month.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

**No public input.**

## **CHAIRMAN REPORT:**

On March 1, 2023, the board chairpersons from the Rochester area charter schools met with Mayor Malik Evans to raise awareness of charter schools.

- 8,000 students currently attend a charter school in Rochester.
- Rochester has 15 charter schools with 27 locations
- 24% of the student population in Rochester attends charter schools.
- It has been projected that during the 2023-2024 school year, 50% of kindergarten students will be attending charter schools.
- There were conversations on how the RCSD and the charter schools could begin to collaborate. Items of discussion were:
  - Transportation
  - Facility Use
- Records show that the system improves in states where 30% of students attend charter schools. We will carry this message and ensure we begin the conversation slowly.

## **CEO REPORT:**

### **Attendance:**

- February's attendance was an average of 88%.

### **Enrollment:**

- February's enrollment was 990 students.
- March's enrollment was 980 students.

The Data dashboard that was presented during the meeting included the following:

- K-6: BAS Reading Assessment Update
- 3-8: ALEKS Growth Update
- 9-12: Benchmark Assessment 1 – Semester 2
- 2019 Accountability Cohort

A shared plan showed how the school responds to this data to ensure an increase in students meeting and/or exceeding standards by the end of the school year.

## **Operations:**

### **Facilities**

- **Zimbrich Renovations**
  - Bids are coming in for the renovations at the Zimbrich Campus
  - The restrooms and the floor will be completed by Fall 2023
- **Joseph Campus**
  - Cameras:

- Installing additional cameras at the middle school
- Expansion
  - SWBR provided a "pro bono" (valued at \$4,000)—gymnasium conceptual drawings for marking/promotion.
  - Working with financial companies and banks to get rates
  - Comparing cost with other charter schools that have done a similar project.

**Student Programs/Community Initiatives/College & Career Readiness Update:**

**ELT Program**

**Zimbrich Campus**

- Before School
  - 63 students enrolled, with 90% attendance
- After School
  - 45 students enrolled, with 90% attendance

**Joseph Campus**

- After School
  - 15 students enrolled, 88% attendance

**Round 8 of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant**

- There was a technical assistant visit on March 2, 2023.
- Conduct a site monitor visit on April 26<sup>th</sup> to provide a visit to monitor the 21<sup>st</sup>-century program.

**PTO**

- March Madness Basketball Game – 52 people were in attendance

**College and Career Readiness**

- IBERO American Action League, Inc. – 9 students submitted scholarship applications
- Vision Financial Group
- Wegman Scholarship Program
- FutureSmart – Financial Literacy for Middle School Students

**CEO Updates:**

**The following items were discussed during the CEO Updates:**

- HR – Job Fair at the Irondequoit Library on Friday, March 24, 2023.
- Planning for Lottery Day – April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Recruitment & Marketing Initiatives**
  - Rochester Red Wing – Plymouth Avenue Gallery Signage
  - Rochester Red Wing Pocket 2023 Schedule
  - Zimbrich Campus Playground Bench – Apply Now Signage

**ACADEMIC COMMITTEE:**

The Academic Committee is recommending a new K-12 math curriculum to begin during the 2023-2024 school year, called Illustrative Math, with the recommendation of our math consultant

and EL Education. The cost of the curriculum is \$33,000. The new math curriculum aligns with the Next Generation Standards as Common Core will be discontinued.

The new math curriculum – Illustrative Math, and the cost of \$33,000, was presented for approval. Mr. Caster moved the motion, and Mr. Meléndez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

The Finance Committee recommended that Mr. Ryan Caster be the chair of the Finance Committee. Mr. Marlin moved the motion, and Mr. Meléndez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The finance committee met immediately before the board meeting. The main topic of discussion was the 2022 Financial Audit. and reviewed the financial audit with Mr. Craig Stevens from the Bonadio Group. The majority of the discussion was about the Financial Audit and the results.

#### **Financial Reports**

Ms. Nikki Kersbergen, Finance Manager, reviewed the financial statements as of February 28, 2023. Please see the attached reports.

Mr. Ciccarelli shared that a 6 month treasury bill became due yesterday, and he will sweep that into the school's government money market, which is currently paying 4.1%.

Ms. Kersbergen has been contacting several agencies for loans and bonds for the Joseph Avenue Expansion Project, and they shared that it will be in the school's best interest to pass this resolution. The resolution reads: "A resolution of EMHCS, declaring its official intent to reimburse itself with the proceeds of a future borrowing for certain capital expenditures to be undertaken by the charter school; identifying said capital expenditures and the funds to be used for such payment; and providing certain other matters in connection therewith."

The resolution was presented for approval. Mr. Caster moved the motion, and Mr. Marlin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

February's board meeting minutes were presented for approval. Ms. Pérez-Delgado moved the motion, and Mr. Meléndez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Caster abstained from voting as he was not a board member in February.

Ed Law 2-d Rider – Proposed Data Security & Privacy Policy Changes was presented for approval. Mr. Meléndez moved the motion, and Mr. Marlin seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **Building Committee**

The Building and Finance Committee will meet to discuss the Joseph Avenue Expansion Project recommendations. A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

**Governance Committee**

A resolution of thanks for ex-board member Ms. Connie O. Walker was presented, where the board highlighted her contribution to EMHCS and offered our thanks. A copy of the resolution will be part of the board minutes.

The Resolution of thanks for Ms. Connie O. Walker was presented for approval. Mr. Marlin moved the motion, and Mr. Frasier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

No old business.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Executive Session**

No executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Vázquez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting with no other business to discuss. Mr. Marlin moved the motion, and Mr. Ciccarelli seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next Board Meeting will meet on Tuesday, April 25, 2023; the meeting location will be at the Administrative Office at 977 Joseph Avenue, conference room, Rochester, NY 14621.

Respectfully submitted,

Angélica Pérez-Delgado  
Board Secretary