

Cedars International Academy
Minutes of February 2, 2017
At the Highland Mall campus

Present: Dr. Maria Seidner, Mrs. Earlyne Barrs, Dr. Don J. Sawyer,
Dr. Melissa Biegert and Barney Schulz.

Also Present: Dr. Mark Diaz, Stephanie Ehler, Jacqueline Dixon and Steve Zipkes.

We began our meeting with a quorum at 12: 06 PM.
We went into immediately Closed Session.
at 12:14 PM we went to open session.

We reviewed the minutes of **January 12, 2017**. Mr. Schulz moved to accept them with changes and Ms. Barr seconded the motion which passed!

Recognitions: The Board discussed the death of Board Member, **Joseph Crowley**. Everyone expressed a desire to recognize him for his years of work and involvement For Cedars Academy. It was agreed that all members will consider possibilities.

Director/Board Communications:

Enrollment:

-registration has begun; photos will be taken; yearly in-service will be March 9th at 9:00 AM at Region XIII.

Dr. Diaz introduced **Stephanie Ehler** to the Board; she entertained questions from all of the Board members. She excused herself and the Board discussed her nomination to the Board!

Report Items:

Dr. Diaz introduced **Mr. Steve Zipkes**, the principal of the High School who gave the Board an update of the progress of the newly established and opened High School. He reported an enrollment of 84 students and said that we have the capacity for 250. He commented on the challenges of starting up but stated that we are ahead of the game because of the faculty's previous work together and the nice campus. He stated that on Feb. 8th there will be a visitor from Beijing, China; on the 15th a visitor from Australia will be coming to see our school. On the 20th we have an Open House. On March 6th people will be coming from the Humble ISD. We received approval to have the TSI College placement test to be given to our students to receive college credits. Mr. Zipkes stated that he is encouraging the High School students to mentor and help the lower

grades but transportation is a problem between our two campuses! The kitchen received a grade of 96 by the health department. Our food service audit was outstanding.

Mrs. Dixon (see page 9) reported on the ESL targeted improvement plans and the PBMAS (Performance Based Monitoring Accountability System).

Dr. Diaz reported No lawmakers attended the TCSA sponsored Town Hall event.

The board reviewed the succession policy and directed Dr. Diaz to invite Rick Wallen to our next meeting for an interview. The decision to determine the permanent board member will occur at the April board meeting.

The draft 2017-18 budget was discussed along with notification that pre enrollment has started.

Dr. Biegert and Dr. Seidner reported on their meeting with KLE. Dr. Diaz mentioned the email from the Dell foundation.

Discussion/and Possible action:

- a. Dr. Biegert moved that we approve the hiring of the proposed Paraprofessional, Teacher and Administrator Candidates. Mrs. Barrs seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- b. Mr. Schulz moved and Dr. Biegert seconded a motion to approve Belt Harris Pechacek as our auditors for the 2016-17 school year. It was approved unanimously.
- c. Mr. Schulz moved and Dr. Biegert seconded a motion to approve Mr. Michael Blalock as the investment officer. It was approved unanimously.
- d. Dr. Biegert moved that we accept Stephanie Ehler as a member of this extinguished Board! It was seconded by Mrs. Barrs and it was approved unanimously!
- e. Dr. Sawyer moved that we approve the Retention Bonus and the motion was seconded by Dr. Biegert and was approved unanimously.
- f. Dr. Sawyer moved that this Board approve the summer retreat to the Dominican Republic for thirty-seven staff members for the cost of \$50,000.00. Dr. Biegert seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
- g. Mr. Schultz made a motion that we accept the 2017-2018 School Calendar. Mrs. Barrs seconded the motion which passed unanimously!
- h. Dr. Sawyer moved that we approve Special Education Policy 700-460! Mrs. Barrs seconded the motion which was also approved unanimously.
- i. Mr. Schulz moved that we approve the Financial Reports excluding the Investment Report! Mrs. Barrs seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- j. Dr. Sawyer moved that we adjourn and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Barrs.

It was also approved unanimously.

We will meet on March 9th at Region XIII! We closed at 1:37 PM.