

Towpath Trail High School Board Meeting Minutes

Akron Public Library

December 14, 2016

4:15 PM

Meeting called to order at 4:17pm.

Board Members in Attendance

Nadir Akbar
Kathi Brand
Paula Seibel
Jessica Hricovec
Ron McDaniel
Christopher Owens
Rob Demko

Guests in Attendance

Jason McMillin- Fiscal Officer
Karen Wachter- Cambridge
Mansell Baker- Legal Assistant
Christina Fraser- School Director
Susan Scarponi- CSS
Doug Livingston-Akron Beacon Journal
Leah Klatowski-Akron Beacon Journal
April Hart- Board Counsel

Welcome and Formal Commencement of the meeting by the Board President.

Public Comment- No public comment given.

Review of Agenda and Proposed Resolutions

The Board reserves the right to amend the agenda at any time throughout the meeting.

Motion to approve the December 14, 2016 meeting agenda by: Member Jessica Hricovec.

Second: Member Kathi Brand.

All in Favor. ALL. Motion Carried.

16-81 RESOLVED: The Board of Directors adopts and approves the agenda of December 14, 2016.

Standard Business

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve by: Member Jessica Hricovec. Second: Member Kathi Brand.

All in Favor. ALL. Motion Carried

16-82 RESOLVED: The Board of Directors approves the meeting minutes from the November 9, 2016 Board Meeting.

Correction for recording: Maureen Zeigler was not present at the last meeting. Corrected noted.

Legal Update- April Hart & Co. LLP.

Ms. Hart advised that she would like to update the Board in Executive Session, for legal matters with WhiteHat Management lawsuit and settlement figures.

Sponsor Update – Susan Scarponi-CSS

Ms. Scarponi reported on the goals in the OIP. Ms. Scarponi also provided a copy of the Ohio Improvement Plan Draft. The sponsor would like to see the Board and School BLT monitor the process cooperatively. In addition to the draft, the Sponsor Connection also outlines the expectations of the OIP. The school can revise the plan as needed. Ms. Scarponi recommended that the school focus in on a few goals to review in March.

State of the School Report-Christina Fraser-School Director

The administrator reported Towpath Trail High School at 34% attendance and an enrollment of 271 students. The students are having a competition for attendance improvement, whereas students will receive tickets that go towards gift cards. Ms. Fraser highlighted that the students took a trip to NASA and took part in various exercises.

Discussion: How is the language coming? The Students are working well with the ESL teacher, and learning new words and greetings. Ms. Fraser responded to Member Akbar regarding Community Service projects that will be conducted twice a year.

Financial Report –Jason McMillin-Massa Financial

Mr. McMillin reviewed the submitted financial report for the November month. Mr. McMillin reminded the board that Towpath was funded on FTE student 262. Fiscal Officer reported that school is ahead of budget and that cash position is strong. The School did take on some added expenses as a result of the new satellite. Mr. McMillin highlighted that the 990 filing is in progress and the Audit is going well. Mr. McMillin also updated the Board on the financing of the project loan. The Fiscal Officer stated that Charter School Capital was hard to get ahold of. Westfield Financial responded to the request, and will cooperate once Charter School Capital provides information. Mr. McMillin reported that Courtland Bank was sought out by John Stack and he may have an update for the Board.

Discussion: Mr. Stack stated that he had a meeting last Friday, and that he has a connection with someone of the Board and that he can provide a favorable recommendation. He also stated that they would take on the main campus mortgage as well as the Satellite. Mr. Akbar stated that that may be the best option as he detailed in his email. Mr. Stack stated that he will provide more information once the documents have been reviewed.

Member Akbar- Is this a local bank? Mr. Stack-They have local branches in Cleveland, Hudson, and the Fairlawn area.

Mr. McMillin requested that the Board pay the past due invoices from Tober Construction. He stated that John Stack (Cambridge Education Group) is willing to help and off-set the cost associated by deferring the payment to CEG.

Mr. McMillin stated that \$420,000 is the cash balance and \$244,141.75 will be the amount the Board can pay Tober for October.

Member Kathi Brand would like to motion to pay Tober the past due invoice amount. The Fiscal Officer stated that the Board is good financial position to pay the past amount.

Member Kathi Brand motioned to pay Tober Construction the past due invoice for October in the amount of \$244,141.75

All in Favor. ALL. Motion Carried.

16-83 RESOLVED: The Board of Directors authorizes payment to Tober Construction for the past due invoice for October in the amount of \$244,141.75.

Discussion: Mr. Stack stated that it would be better to open up in the traditional start of the school year.

Mr. Akbar states that he mentioned that this would happen and that he stated that this was fast tracked so that the school could open in January, now the case is we are opening in July.

Member Kathi Bland- The trustees would not pass the variances and this attributed to the delay.

Ms. Hart- Her question was not about not paying but simply that we could be paying for the project and the Board can spend the money yourselves towards the construction. She stated they may not be done in January. Mr. Stack explained that CEG will delay their payment and hopes that financing will come through before CEG's payment is severely past due.

Mr. McMillin- If a finance committee meeting is held, could it be done after the holiday? At that point the option and financial options can be cleared up.

Motion to accept the November financial report as submitted and subject to audit by: Member Rob Demko. Second: Member Chris Owens.

All in Favor. ALL. Motion Carried.

16-84 RESOLVED: The Board of Directors accepts the November financial report and subject to audit.

Management Report – Karen Wachter-Cambridge

Ms. Wachter reported that the students are currently working on the end of course exams. The fall OGT test scores were received. Ms. Wachter highlighted that all curriculum meetings have concluded. In January all Ohio directors meeting will be held, with a focus on CBI and Career Tech curriculum. CEG will be focusing on the Report Card. The Students hit that 75% participation rate to help make improvements in focus areas with regard to the report card. There are 9 graduates for tonight's ceremony.

Discussion: Akbar- CEG hired 3 new teachers, what are we doing with them now that building is not opening in January? Response: CEG took on one for Marketing and the other for curriculum as a school improvement coach. 3rd employee is pending conversation on Friday.

Old Business

None.

New Business:

- a. Board Changes- Board members are requested to send resumes to Kathi Brand to sort out.

Discussion: Akbar- Mentioned Diversity on Board group which may be an organization that may be good to reach out to.

- b. Member Nomination to the Finance Committee – Member Jessica Hricovec is nominated as Chair of the Finance Committee. Member Hricovec accepted nomination.

Motion to nominate Jessica Hricovec as Chair of the Finance Committee by: Member Kathi Brand.

Second: Member Paula Seibel.

All in Favor. ALL. Motion Carried.

16-85 RESOLVED: The Board of Directors appoints Member Jessica Hricovec as Chair of the Finance Committee for a 1 year term commencing January 2017 until her earliest resignation.

Member Nomination to the office of Board Secretary- Member Kathi Brand is nominated as Board Secretary. Member Kathi Brand accepted nomination.

Motion to nominate Kathi Brand as Board Secretary by: Member Jessica Hricovec.

Second: Member Christopher Owens.

All in Favor. ALL. Motion Carried.

16-86 RESOLVED: The Board of Directors appoints Member Kathi Brand as Board Secretary for a two (2) year term commencing January 2017 until her earliest resignation.

Executive Session:

Members entered into executive session for legal matters pertaining to current litigation with Legal Counsel April Hart.

IN: 5:37pm (YEA)-Demko, McDaniel, Seibel, Brand, Hricovec, Akbar, Owens.

OUT: 5:52pm

Reminder of Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 4:15pm @ Towpath Trails HS.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: Member Paula Seibel. Second: Member Nadir Akbar.

All in Favor. ALL. Motion Carried.

Adjourned at 5:53pm.

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Board Secretary (Attest)