

Reach Academy for Girls

Reaching and Teaching For Excellence!

3210 Philadelphia Pike

Claymont, Delaware 19703

Phone: 302-792-6400

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www.ReachAcademyforGirls.org

Academics - Leadership - Community

Meeting of the Board of Directors for April 24, 2013 Minutes of the Meeting

In Attendance:

Board Members: Canon Lloyd Casson (President),
Ms. Judith Gregory, Mr. Danny Schweers, Ms. Denise Luce, Ms. Tina Betz, Mrs. Jodi
O'Ferrall,

Ms. Leila Hamroun

Business Manager: Mrs. Maureen Thomas

Dean of Students: Ms. Nakia Fambro

Consultants: Ms. Maria Banks

Public: Deborah Holden, Sabrina Dunlap, Mariel Cole, Khaleelah Robertson, Phil Grimes,
Robert Clark, Michelle Schroy, Glenda Lattie, Stanford Lattie, Michelle Blango, Kevin
McDonald, Toby Conrad, Lanorris Britt, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Young, Marshall Curtis

Regrets:

Head of School: Ms. Tara Allen

Legal Council: Mr. Duane Werb, Mr. Charles Brown

Meeting called to order at 7:00

The Roll was called and all board members were present.

The President welcomed all present. Canon Casson stated that he was aware that the parents present at this meeting had concerns about a particular item on the agenda, related to the possible move by Reach Academy to a new site. He expressed the hope that many of their questions and concerns would be answered by the end of the meeting and further, that no final decision regarding this will be made at this meeting.

- A. **Approval of Minutes:** The March minutes were presented to the board for review. Ms. Tina Betz put forth a motion for approval, and Ms. Judith Gregory seconded this motion. All board members were in favor.
- B. **Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Ms. Judith Gregory
- i Ms. Gregory presented the March Financial Report and put forth a motion for its approval and posting on the Academy website.
 - i Mr. Danny Schweers seconded this motion. All board members were in favor.
 - i Ms. Gregory briefly informed those present about the involvement of the Citizens Budget Oversight Committee with the Treasure and Business Manager in regularly reviewing the budget. She noted that the financial picture is sound and that 75% of the fiscal year having passed, we are under budget in some areas.
- C. **Alternative Site Report:**
- **Canon Casson:**
Canon Casson stated that the purpose for discussion of this item was not to make a decision tonight to move to another site. Rather we will vote on whether to proceed with the work of doing the due diligence necessary for determining the feasibility of such a move. He stated that following presentations and

discussion by the board, all present will be invited to ask questions and make comments prior to the vote.

- **Ms. Jodi O'Ferrall:** Ms. O'Ferrall explained to those in attendance how the possibility of a move to the Lukens Drive sight came about since the last board meeting. She explained that the board has been going through the Strategic Planning process for the past year, and that this opportunity was in line with that process. A handout was given to parents explaining the pros and cons of the various site options under consideration.
- **Ms. Maureen Thomas:** Ms Thomas described the Lukens Drive facility, noting that it consisted of two buildings, the oldest constructed only 14 years ago. Some of the features are: many classrooms, a separate gym, auditorium and cafeteria, ample offices, and athletic field.
- Ms. Thomas and Board members discussed steps to take and items to consider for doing due diligence.
Ms. Thomas explained that we will need to sign a letter of intent that has conditions for a refund if the move does not proceed. She also explained that a major modification of the charter has to be submitted to the Department of Education. Ms. O'Ferrall mention that we will be looking at enrollment, finances, and busing issues before proceeding. Ms. Gregory mentioned that the modification is a 90 day process. We can not proceed without an okay from the DOE. Canon Casson stated that even if the DOE gives us the go ahead, we can still say no if we feel it the move is not in the best interest of Reach Academy For Girls. Ms. Betz stated that we are talking about it now so that we have an option. If we do not proceed, we lose the opportunity. Ms. Thomas stated that given our growth, a move is inevitable, and this is something that we have known.

D. Public Comments/Questions

Two questions about the safety of the area were brought up.

- One parent stated having heard that the area near the school is an active drug scene and was concerned about drugs and violence.
- One parent stated having heard that a residence for sex offenders was in that vicinity. Mr Schweers thanked both parents for the information and assured that these concerns will be investigated.
- Another parent who is familiar with the Lukens Drive site stated that it is an excellent facility. Canon Casson stated that if we occupied the site, we would put up a fence to make the area was even more secure.
- Ms. Thomas and Ms. Allen have spoken with people who like the facility.
- Another parent stated that he loves the security of the Claymont site. Ms. Thomas stated that the Lukens Drive facility has the same system. She also explained the time line to the parents.
- A question was raised about the opportunity for school choice for those who may not want to move. Ms. Thomas responded that Ms. Allen was in the process of finding out if a late move would constitute an exigent circumstance and if parents would be given the opportunity for choice.
- A question was raised about when do we decide whether to move on with the second modular unit. Ms. Hamroun explained that we are in the process of looking at all options. We do have a plan b for the modular in place.
- A parent question if there would be an issue with moving from one school district to another. It was explained since Charter schools are not district schools that this should not be an issue.
- A parent questioned whether we plan to expand grade wise, possibly into high school. Ms. Thomas explained that at the Lukens Drive site there is land available for expansion should we decide to go that route. We have given thought to the possibility of pre-school.

- A parent questioned if there would be a library and a computer lab. A library and computer lab would be part of the Lukens Drive facility..

Following questions and comments from parents and board, Canon Casson thanked the parents for their interest and for their comments, questions and suggestions. He assured them that we would follow up on each of the concerns raised. He also stated that the parents will be informed in a timely manner as we proceed..The President then called for a motion to proceed with steps of due diligence.

- Ms. Judith Gregory put forth a resolution authorizing the Administration to submit an application for charter modification in conjunction with a Letter of Intent to 4048 and Associates regarding the 170 Lukens Drive facility, which states conditions for the refund of any deposit. Ms. Leila Hamroun seconded this motion. All board members were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Denise L. Luce,
Secretary to the Board of Reach Academy for Girls

Sign In Sheet Board Meeting 4/24

1. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
2. Sabrina Dunlop
3. Mariel Cole
4. Maria Bauls
5. Khaleelah Probertson
6. Phil Brown (ERIN SANDS)
7. Robert Key Clark
8. Michelle Schroy
9. GLENDA LATTIE
10. STANFORD H. LATTIE
11. Michelle Blango
12. KEVIN McDONALD
13. Toby Conrad
14. Landorris Britt
15. MR & MRS Herb Young
16. MARSHALL CORTIS

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Additional Information Received after Document Completion

Student Enrollment Changes as of 5/1

New Student Yes.....5

Returning Students Yes.....0

New Student No.....0

Returning Students No.....0

Aries Harper (Kindergarten New applicant agreed to re-locate)

Vida Jefferson (6th Grade Pending applicant. Now approved applicant and agrees to re-locate)

Iasiah Byrd-Parks (7th Grade New applicant agrees to re-locate)

Za'Niyah Jones (1st Grade new applicant. Now Approved applicant and agrees to re-locate)

Amina Malilo (Kindergarten new applicant. Now agrees to re-locate)