



## Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

### Minutes

June 17, 2021

The third meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering for the 2020-21 school term was held on June 17, 2021 at 3:30 pm via Zoom virtually.

**Present:** The following Directors were present virtually: Steve Bares (Chairman), Nathaniel Spates, Daniel Copp, Darryl Jackson, Sondra Howell, Holly Coleman and Gary Lynch. Executive Director Rodrick Gaston and Artunyala Hunter (MASE HR Admin Assistant-recording). Also present were Brandon Wells, Greg Thompson and Katie Wise.

#### **Directors Absent**

Jessica Becker, Susan Huffman and Mark Jackson

#### **Call to order:**

At 3:32 pm, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Bares to form a quorum.

Holly Coleman made a motion to approve minutes from the MASE Board of Directors virtual meeting held on March 11, 2021, seconded by Gary Lynch and All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

#### **MASE Board Chair**

We're now in charge of our Destiny. Early in 2021, MASE sought a change in the sponsorship. Given the change in the State Law, MASE Board of Directors is no longer affiliated with the Memphis Bioworks Foundation Board, therefore making it completely independent of itself, moving them from under their umbrella as Sponsor. Additionally, WE ARE DEBT FREE!! The PPP Loan has been forgiven/resolved. Chairman Bares opened the floor for questions regarding By-Laws/ Memphis Bioworks will make \$3M+ to MASE, which clears any/all debts. The PPP Loan was forgiven/resolved. The question was posed why MASE no longer needs a Sponsor? With MASE gaining its full independence, sponsorship is no longer needed. After Members reviewed the Bylaws modifications, Vice Chairman Darryl Jackson made motion to approve modifications and the Charter with All Board Directors unanimously voting to approve new Bylaws.

### **Enrollment & Staff**

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened by thanking everyone for their support during the school's difficult year affected by Covid-19. Despite the pandemic's challenges, the creative tailored plans orchestrated by MASE Team successfully fulfilled most goals. Enrollment stayed on point. This year's Senior Class finished with 98% graduation rate. The school's reopen to in-person learning enabled eighth graders and seniors to attend Proms, Promotional Ceremonies and Graduations. Students really enjoyed the opportunity to have fun via interacting and socialization. Although we only finished with about 10% in-person students, we were satisfied knowing that the low rate trended across the school system. Rodrick Gaston applauded the staff's tireless efforts in making those events as spectacular and normal as possible. All with the exception of one teacher returned in person. Even to the end, we managed to not only maintain, but exceed enrollment goal of 575 by ending the 2020-21 term with 591 students.

### **Attendance**

We continued policing attendance by making it a high priority through the very last day of school. Although sixth grade teachers taught virtually, the students were afforded the option to learn in-person while being monitored by Subs. We managed to get all students to come in person for TN Ready Testing. Although this year's testing data won't be held against us, we'll seek to receive those results. All teachers continued to excel with their dual roles.

### **Academic Excellence Committee**

We don't have full data for Juniors yet. Only one (1) senior didn't graduate on time. But we're still in hopes for that student to finish out. We were able to get all our students to come in person for the TN Ready testing. Thankfully, this year's data will not be held against us. But the State hasn't shared that data. We really don't see a lot of trending growth. Our Learning Loss Bridge Camp is going on now with the hopes of bridging the loss gap. The students appear to be engaging in their classrooms. Also our Summer School Program is in process now with hopes for "credit recovery". This is the final year for the R3 grant contract. We will be able to reapply next April 2022. Looking forward to re-establishing STEM in Motion program. It's possible, we might not be able to return our STEM program with Lebonheur because of Covid-19. However, we might be able to have a Lebonheur Representative come to us. Our Computer Science program will also continue. Thus far, we're still unsure about MBCC allowing the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy to utilize their facilities. If not, we'll be forced to either look elsewhere or house them in our main campus. Dr. Bares congratulated us on a job well done considering the obstacles and the grim look at the beginning of the school term. We definitely ended the year better than expected!!

### **Highlights**

We still managed to finish with a Graduation rate of 98%. The in-person percentage began @ 25%, but ended with only 10%, which was a common trend across the board of other local schools. Currently, under 100 students have not yet returned laptops, hotspots devices. Although challenging without an Academy, we still made it possible for 6<sup>th</sup> graders to return in person.



Sadly, we will lose Directors Nate Spates as a Parent-Member because his daughter graduated and long-time Director Susan Huffman who will pursue other endeavors.

**Budget & Financial discussion:**

Segue HR Representative Greg Thompson presented financial report. Director Holly Coleman motioned to approved the 2021-22 Budget and Director Darryl Jackson seconding with all unanimously approving.

**Adjourn:**

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:49 pm.

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Steven J. Bares, Chairman