



Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

Minutes September 28, 2023

The first 2023-24 school term meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering was held in MASE's new Location's Conference Room on September 28, 2023 at 3:30pm.

Present: All Directors were present: Steve Bares (Chairman), Darryl Jackson, Marc Taylor, Sondra Howell, Clifford Jackson & Olayinke Mohorn-Mintah. Gary Lynch & Holly Coleman attended virtually. Also present were Executive Director Rodrick Gaston, Artunyala Hunter (MASE HR Admin Assistant-recording) and Greg Thompson.

Directors Absent

None

Call to order:

At 3:41 pm, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Bares to form a quorum, seconded by All.

Directors seconded to approve the minutes from the MASE Board of Directors virtual meeting held on June 15, 2023. All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

State of the School

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened and welcomed the first in-person meeting at the new location. He jumped into following the Agenda and first covered state of the campus. Our biggest challenge over the summer was getting school and teachers ready to start in August. It's desired to make the building conducive to a great learning environment. Some unused areas of the school had to be closed off and there was significant cleanup and repairs needed to make the school safe and secure for students.

Enrollment & Staff

This school term's goal was to enroll & maintain 650 students. We immediately went to work on heavy recruitment campaign to get students by hiring a marketing firm to help with recruitment. We're currently fully staffed. Ended 2022-23 school term with 573 students and has already begun this 2023-24 school term with 701 students, which is about 30% growth increase. The campaign began back in April. We had a recruitment showcase with local media, which produced a great turnout. This year we have a big influx of new residences. We've already maxed out 9th & 10th grades enrollment. Unfortunately we've actually had to

reject some students because we're maxed out. Marketing results showed parents "looking for safety". Our parents are feeling safe.

Attendance

The Attendance Clerk and Recruitment Team continuously work together to take measures to head off truancy. Looking forward to this school year's 20-year anniversary celebration which will be in either March or April of 2024.

Highlights

Volleyball Team is currently undefeated. High School Football team only lost one (1) non-conference game. The Band is constantly improving and will be going out of town to compete via invitation.

Goals

We using Objective & Key Results (OKR's) which was different from previous years' key results. We can get desired results by looking at Mastery Connect. We can start Real Estate Program (Real 2 Real) in January 2024, which is a 12 week program. We have a couple of alumni that have Real Estate Licenses. We just want to work to ensure our students are college and/or career ready.

Academics

Met with Academic Committee with the intent to improve measuring what matters. Academics is most important. Took a look at returning middle school math students math scores versus new students, which is pretty much the same with newcomers slightly higher than returnees. Middle School not where we want them to be. Tested by grade level and will next track to see are the students progressing each year. New students scored better than returnees. On the other hand, high school returning student scores were better than newcomers. Looking at how we compare to other Charter Schools?? We had our teachers shadow Freedom Prep's Math department. We did learn that the longer our students remain with us, the better they've performed.

Facilities/Real Estate

Chair Director Dr. Bares discussed operations, real estate and current lease offer. We're still looking for long-term rental options and lease with the option to buy.

Budget & Financial discussion:

Segue HR Representative Greg Thompson presented financial report. The Board formally approved the 2023-24 Budget for submission to the District.

Adjourn:

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Steven J. Bares, Chairman