



## Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

### Minutes October 17, 2024

The first 2024-25 school term meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering was held in MASE's Conference Room on October 17, 2024 at 3:30pm.

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

#### **Directors Absent**

Darryl Jackson  
Holly Coleman

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

At 3:45 pm, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Bares to later form a quorum and approve minutes. All present seconded.

#### **Enrollment & Staff**

Rodrick Gaston covered enrollment. We ended 2023-24 school term with 648 students. We're currently at 670 students. Budget is also set for 670 students. We made it through Quarter 1. The key focus recruitment was middle school and hopefully increase enrollment in January 2025. Although it's still early in school term, we have already had to issue some suspensions. We're currently 100% fully staffed. However, we did make two cuts by not filling Secretary and SPED positions. Other SPED Teachers are filling in the gap to keep us in compliance with SPED regulations. Very excited to have two new Admin Members to the Team (Dr. Kevin Malone & Mrs. Charmaniece Staples).

Mrs. Staples was recommended to us as a Math Superstar and she is living up to that title. She has covered so much ground in her little time with us. She stated math can be improved. Teachers are on board. We're currently using Mastery Connect as an Indicator. All should stay dedicated to work. Middle School Math is currently using i-Ready, which provides and aids teachers to create their own individual personalized plan to proficiency and growth in reading and math.

### **Highlights**

Rodrick Gaston shared a video created by our students expounding on their “favorite things about MASE”. Most students spoke on the positive ways MASE prepares students academically and praised our athletics department. All are pleased with our “Best Is Standard” motto. We recently partnered with Peer Power, which provides us with high level young college students to work with students (one-on-one). Each teacher has 1 – 2 Assistants per classroom. Parent Board Member Clifford Jackson added his son’s subject has already risen from D to B in Geometry with the Peer Power’s assistant. The teachers met yesterday for discussion. The program is already making a positive impact and we see future growth. We also had our Homecoming Parade, which was a huge success. Also, the Volleyball Team is finished this season as City and District Champions. Unfortunately, we defeated in the Regionals.

### **Attendance**

The Attendance Coordinator continuously stays on top of attendance and take measures to head off truancy.

### **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**

Dr. Bares praised the improvement results thus far. We should be a level 4 or 5 upcoming. This year’s Benchmark tests were administered on October 2<sup>nd</sup> right before Fall Break. There’s some work to be done in areas. Target is 25%, which would make us a top performing school. Once per year we look at how we are performing in comparison to other “like” schools. All our programs are now up and running. Pharmacy Tech begins in January 2025. University of Memphis also wants to partner.

Dr. Bares approved minutes and Marc Taylor motioned to approve the minutes at 4:0pm, seconded by all Members.

### **Facilities/Real Estate**

Chair Director Dr. Bares discussed operations, real estate and current lease offer. All grants are gone, leaving us to live within our means. Everything pretty much is our responsibility. Facility is killing our budget. We must take care of these issues because not doing so puts our students at risk. The District will get a plan to sell the building to us. However, we can’t capitalize right now because we would love to keep the building. Rodrick Gaston met with Superintendent today regarding us staying in the building.

### **Budget & Financial discussion:**

Segue HR Representative Greg Thompson presented financial report. It’s costing about \$200,000 per year to make fixes on the building (boilers, etc.). He reiterated that we have to be tight this year because of no grants.

Dr. Bares and Gary motioned to approve the Budget. Clifford Jackson seconded with a show of hands to approve. The Board formally approved the 2023-24 Budget for submission to the District.

**Adjourn:**

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.

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Steven J. Bares, Chairman