



## Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

### Minutes

June 15, 2023

The final 2022-23 school term meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering was held on June 15, 2023 at 3:30 pm via Zoom.

**Present:** All Directors were present virtually: Steve Bares (Chairman), Darryl Jackson, Holly Coleman, Marc Taylor, Gary Lynch, 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**

None

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

At 3:34 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 March 9, 2023. All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

#### **Enrollment & Staff**

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened with his satisfaction of how we closed out the 2022-23 school term despite all the facility challenges. Our desired goal is to add 50 new students to reach golden number of 650.

#### **Attendance**

The Attendance Clerk continues to stay on top of truancy, which still continues to be a trend across the board. We're starting a marketing program to boost up recruitment. Looking forward to gear up next year's 20-year anniversary celebration which will be in either March or April of 2024.

### **State of the School**

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston and Team Leaders conducted a walk-thru with former NW Prep Building Engineer. They also scheduled a meeting for next week with MCSC. Because the building was so trashed from August 2022, we will have to begin prompt clean-up for entire building by having crew members working days & nights to be on schedule for start of 2023-24 school term. We have, however, made great progress. Our biggest challenge is getting school and teachers ready to start in August, which is only a couple of months ahead.

### **Highlights**

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston shared video from sophomore student (Daniel Robbs) that expounded on the importance of how the ACT Prep courses help with practicing and preparing for the actual Test. The primary objective to advertise/push was “the more practice, the better the scores”. He encouraged students to take the test multiple times if possible and ended the video by depicting a graph of average scores. We’re in process of purchasing newer buses. Although we incurred unexpected high maintenance cost of current buses, the overall cost for transportation was still cheaper.

### **Goals**

Some goals are still pending. We looking long-term with Facilities Committee. Also, we’re looking to recruit another parent Board Member along with our expanding membership of our existing committees. Dr. Bares expressed the advantages we would have in making partnerships.

### **Academic Data/Graduation**

We had large influx of transfer students MAHS that were seniors who had never taken the ACT test. This resulted in kinda low overall scores for our seniors. Our goal is to raise the ACT scores of MAHS transfer sophomores and juniors by getting them ready for prepping to test. We should see Math scores increase by revamping our Math Department. We’re slowly climbing the ladder to reach 21 desired average score. Of our 83 Seniors, 18-20 were external transfers. Graduation rate was 94-95%. College offers increased to 30%. Operation Score Card is still pending.

### **Facilities/Real Estate**

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston emailed our Marketing Plan to everyone for view. SCS is not position to sell/lease the building. We have permission to clean and hired clean-up crew. The biggest problem now is capital risk. Once done, we will exit the lease with MBCC. Rent has been discounted. But they still won’t do anything with fixing or cleaning. Although the building is large, classrooms are limited. We’re looking for a lease with the option to buy.

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

Segue HR Representative Greg Thompson presented financial report. He went thru the 2023-24 Budget, which must be approved 7/15/23.

### **Adjourn:**

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.

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Steven J. Bares, Chairman