



Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

Minutes

March 11, 2021

The second meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering for the 2020-21 school term was held on March 11, 2021 at 3:30 pm via Zoom virtually.

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

Directors Absent

None

Call to order:

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

Chairman Steve Bares made a motion to approve minutes from the MASE Board of Directors virtual meeting held on November 19, 2020, seconded by All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

Enrollment & Staff

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened with the state of the school, enrollment and staff. Although we were somewhat nervous about the affect 100% virtual would have on attendance for the 2020-21 academic school term, we've managed to maintain our current enrollment at 594 students, which is a +22 in comparison to last year. Chairman Steve Bares expressed his excitement and congratulated the MASE Team for their hard work of keeping enrollment up, despite the virtual setting. Staff remains at 100% with 100% licensed teachers, which should reflect in Operation Score Card. returning.

Attendance remains a priority. Because of the virtual setting, tackling attendance has been a tad big challenging. Rodrick Gaston pretty much appointed "virtual police" team to ensure the students were

logging in, waking up timely and keeping 3rd period on point. Our attendance rate is up compared to some other schools. We will continue policing attendance by making it a high priority especially considering those numbers dictate charter school payments. Although we're about 2 weeks with in-person students, Teachers continue to excel with their dual roles.

Academic Excellence Committee

Vice Chairman Darryl Jackson and Rodrick Gaston presented Benchmark results from 1st and 2nd academic testing. Darryl along with Rodrick's Team put together plans to bridge/close the Academic Gap caused by the Pandemic. Admittedly virtual learning has caused a decline in academic performances. Data reflects a majority of our students are performing below proficiency in all subjects. Although we're aware that such is the case county-wide and globally, we're enforcing methods to handle and improve our internal decline and get back on track. Numbers show that students desperately need in-person learning. Hopefully with 15% of our students currently in-person, numbers for the 3rd upcoming testing after Spring Break will be much better. After all, most of the 15% consists of students with low performances and attendance issues. Additionally, we will have our own Middle School Summer School "credit recovery" program at MASE. Therefore, our students won't have to attend Summer School elsewhere at other SC Schools and alleviate cost.

With most of our partnerships with STEM in Motion still in the red due to virtual learning, our program has somewhat been affected. Student maintain access to R3 and Boys & Girls Clubs. We will continue seeking to build new partnerships. We're now exploring TEALS Program because Code Crew grant ends this year. We should have a lot more positive data in June's Board Meeting.

Highlights

ACT goals are ongoing. We will continue ensuring that all our high school students take ACT Prep courses to increase our scores. Sixth Grade Math Teacher Alex Taillie joined the meeting to present a program he was involved last year. The program allows a select group of students to travel abroad while building self-confidence and experience other cultures. Sondra Howell is currently working on a Development & Partnership Committee for us.

Budget & Financial discussion:

Segue HR Representative Katie Wise presented financial report. Our Budget is well managed by MASE Team. Increase in Revenue and Benefits automatically increase as salary replacement increases. Still no major concerns right now. Chairman Bares reported that our current challenging relationship with Mississippi Blvd Christian Church regarding leasing is improving. Some modifications were made to the existing contract, which gives us 5 years to find a new building.

Adjourn:

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

Steven J. Bares, Chairman