



Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

Minutes September 30, 2021

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering for the 2021-22 school term was held on September 30, 2021 at 3:30 pm via Zoom virtually.

Present: The following Directors were present virtually: Steve Bares (Chairman), Daniel Copp, Darryl Jackson, Holly Coleman, Marc Taylor, Jessica Becker, Gary Lynch and new parent member Clifford Jackson. Executive Director Rodrick Gaston and Artunyala Hunter (MASE HR Admin Assistant-recording). Also present were Greg Thompson and Katie Wise.

Directors Absent

Sondra Howell

Call to order:

At 3:34 pm, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Bares to form a quorum.

Dr. Bares made a motion to approve minutes from the MASE Board of Directors virtual meeting held on June 17, 2021, and All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

Enrollment & Staff

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened with enrollment and staff expounding on how great it's been to visually see scholars back in person on campus. Enrollment has been a challenge this year. We're currently about 50 scholars off from desired number of 575 scholars. Parents just aren't sending their children to school. Not just to MASE, but in general, parents are keeping their children at home. Holly added that most schools are experiencing enrollment difficulties. Recruitment did affect our enrollment because we weren't able to visit various schools to recruit potential scholars. Our 6th grade numbers are down at an all time low. We will remain competitive and continue attracting students. Glad to announce the 9th graders are on point and we were successful in maintaining our last year's 8th graders.

Attendance

Currently we are 100% staffed. However, we do have 5 Floating Teachers because they don't have their own classrooms. We welcomed new High School Director Michael Greene and Counseling Director Montanique Abbeyea. Both bring a wealth of experience in their specific fields to the school. Unfortunately, we lost Estilien Louis as full-time HS Director, but were still able to keep him as our Learning Loss Supervisor. Our Computer Science Program is still going on virtually. We may have to fund some of staff positions under ESSER and possibly revise our budget based on reality of our enrollment numbers.

Highlights

We now have our own Food vendor (Feed Well). Students are actually eating lunch. And the food's aroma circles throughout the entire building. Last week SCS visited the school. Our Science Teacher applied for a Computer Science grant for middle school. It will be a feeder for upcoming freshmen going from middle school to high school.

Academic Data

We do have data from test scores. However, they were low because scholars were not in person. Virtual was not as effective as in-person as we'd anticipated. MASE administration remains optimistic English numbers will improve. Math and History/Social Studies dropped. Unfortunately, scores revealed real concerns with Math. The approaching numbers are not as high as other subject approaching numbers. Throughout the state, there's been a concern with acquiring candidates that have adequate certification in mathematics. Utilizing Edmentum as a supplement assistant to help scholars catch up with in-person and close the gap. We should know from Benchmark testing, the first week after Fall Break. Science numbers declined as well. Raising the Bar 2.0 re-implemented. Holly reported that other Charter High Schools are also struggling. We may need assistance in Co-hort Base Learning with other Charter Schools that have established a record of proven success. Our average ACT numbers went up from 17 to 19, which is definitely good news. STEM back in motion. Smith & Nephew, Boys & Girls Club and now Moore Tech are allowing scholars to return back to their premises during school hours. Only Lebonheur still remains closed-off to scholars. With scholars back in school, we have a sense of what things will look like. Guest Gandy Pritchett introduced Professional Pharmacy Services program to connect with their Pharmacy Tech Program. There's a shortage of Pharmacy Techs and their program would allow about 5 to 10 scholars per year explore a must needed career.

Budget & Financial discussion:

Segue HR Representative Greg Thompson presented financial report. Audit process starting up in a couple of weeks. The PPP Loan definitely gave us a surplus. Dr. Bares reported we are still awaiting confirmation from District changing from Bioworks to MASE.

Adjourn:

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Steven J. Bares, Chairman