



## Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

### Minutes

November 19, 2020

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering for the 2020-21 school term was held on November 19, 2020 at 3:30 pm via Zoom virtually.

**Present:** The following directors were present virtually: Steve Bares (Chairman), 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**

Jessica Becker

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

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

Daniel Copp made a motion to approve minutes from the MASE Board of Directors meeting held on June 20, 2020, seconded by Darryl Jackson and All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

#### **Enrollment & Staff**

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened with enrollment and staff. Due to virtual, enrollment began with a slow start, but our 2020-21 current enrollment is 600 students. Sadly to announce the lost of one of our seniors to violence. Counseling services are available to assist students to cope with the grief of losing that student. Attendance has been priority. Rodrick Gaston share a glimpse of our attendance chart. Teachers are doing an excellent job teaching in a virtual environment.

Staff is currently at 100% with 100% licensed teachers, which should reflect in Operation Score Card. returning.

### **Progress of 2020-21 Goals**

ACT goals are ongoing. ACT Teacher Patricia Ange zoomed in and shared some important data. Science tend to be the subject of our highest scores. Math scores are on a decline. Unfortunately, she doesn't teach Math, which makes it a little difficult for her to gage and capture those needed improvement areas. About 50% of students are at 18 score rate, which is NCAA eligible. Our goal is to get our average of at least 21. Darryl Jackson inquired about methods to increase Math scores considering we're a STEM school. Rodrick Gaston noted the difficulties of finding excellent Math teachers in Shelby County. There's also a possibility that our current Math Teachers may not be teaching in the ACT math testings areas. We will continue ensuring that all our high school students take ACT Prep courses to increase our scores.

We desire to maintain a partnership with STEM in Motion , but it's in the red due to virtual learning. Most Smith & Nephew employees are not working in person. But Boys & Girls Clubs do have a virtual learning program. Student Care is vital because of virtual learning setting and the students not interacting in-person with one another. Chairman Bares desires the Board to structure and organize more committees. Vice Chairman Darryl Jackson would like to see others get more involved by joining committees to become a "working" board.

### **Highlights**

Darryl Jackson and Gary Lynch working on Benchmark Data. Darryl Jackson feels comfortable with work being done thus far. He was impressed with our team (Audra Block and her team) and academic committee. Although last school session 2019-20 ended abruptly due to Covid-19, our students continued learning virtually, which gave us a jump start for this current school term. Therefore, it was a smooth transition. Director Susan Huffman received a \$40,000 grant to school psychologists. MASE is also a Top Work Place Employer with the Commercial Appeal.

### **Re-Entry for Spring 2021**

Currently, our plant is to remain 100% virtual learning. As a Charter School, we have the liberty of choosing our preferred learning style between in-person and virtual learning. SCS Annual Charter School visit last week went well.

Feed Wells, LLC representative Breana Boyd joined in to give insight on exploring a new lunch meal plan. She shared a presentation highlighting food quality, taste and optional selections. The overall goal is to avoid hunger and unhealthiness. The students would have the option to select. The major advantage of this meal plan is alleviating meal waste while also boosting safety and quality. Another benefit of this plan is student performance improvement. Because it's State funded, the funding would go directly to us. It would balance out whereas we would have leftover funds to allocate elsewhere. The University of Memphis offers a dual enrollment program with these culinary classes. The deadline is May 2020 to decide to choosing Feed Wells for the 2020-21 school term.

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

Segue HR Representative Katie Wise presented financial report. Our salaries are a little higher than norm due to increase in staff. We just received an \$11,000 grant to cover laptops via Cares Act. No major concerns right now. Chairman Bares expounded the current dilemma with Mississippi Blvd

Christian Church leasing. We're in the process of figuring the best exit plan and exploring other options. We should have finalized our plan by February 2021.

**Adjourn:**

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.

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Steven J. Bares, Chairman