



Literacy, Leadership, & Personalized Learning

Board Minutes – November 19, 2015

Vision: STRIVE Collegiate Academy will cultivate college-ready high school graduates who will achieve post-secondary success and become leaders in their communities, Nashville, and beyond.

Mission: At STRIVE Collegiate Academy, our mission is to prepare middle school students for success in high school, college, and career. We will achieve this by empowering each student with a literacy-based curriculum aligned across all content areas in a culture that encourages leadership, virtue, and excellence as the foundation for success in all of their endeavors.

A. Attendance.

Present: Board members, Dave Carter, Peter Deming, Justin Owen, Troy Smith, Joseph Williams, and Sarah Ann Ezzell

Absent: Michelle Doane

Nida Rab, EdTec Client Manager, Monica Santoyo, Office Manager, and LaKendra Butler, School Leader

B. Proceedings.

Mr. Williams called the November Board meeting to order and proposed approval of the October minutes and November's Board agenda. All Board members in attendance approved.

1. Governance Report

Mr. Owen updated. Mr. Owens introduced Anna Richardson, new potential Board member (approved as a Board member during the November vote) to the Board. Mrs. Anna Richardson introduced herself to the Board and her work with the charter sector in Nashville.

Mr. Owen discussed the Board Self-Evaluation survey, which was sent to the Board of Directors before the November meeting. All Board members are asked to complete the survey by the end of the calendar year in preparation of the January Board meeting.

Mrs. Butler discussed the updated EE17 Charter Board Disclosure Form. Three



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Board members signed the agreement, but Mr. Owen requested the Board hold off on agreeing to officially sign the agreement until after the next Charter Board meeting with Mr. Coverstone on Monday, December 14, 2015.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Rab updated. Presented the October financial update. STRIVE October's operating income totaled -\$42K and the YTD operating income totals \$155K. Our October operating income decreased by \$113K compared to last month's mainly due to: a \$81K decrease to total revenues, as we accounted for our final CSP payment of \$75K + \$5K TCSC donation in September; only BEP + uniform sales revenue received in October; a \$32K increase in total expenses due to expenses for staff recruiting (TFA/TNTP) + 3 payrolls in October (vs. 2 in September); and YTD operating income has decreased from \$198K last month to \$155K – this is forecasted to grow and increase through the remainder of FY16 from additional + operational only expenses (vs. start-up).

BEP Update. As a reminder, our current forecast assumes a BEP funding rate of \$9,000 per DM with 119.6 ADM, equaling \$1.08M for FY16. MNPA adjusted our ADM counts to 121 ADM and also adjusted our funding rate upward to \$9,380 per ADM for November's BEP payment, totaling \$157K. Currently, we are at end of Period 3; maintaining our enrollment post-winter break will have the greatest effect on our BEP revenues.

Current Forecast. Projected operating income of \$263K and an ending fund balance of \$323K for FY16. Since last month's update, we have made \$6K of negative adjustments to our FY16 forecast. Our ending fund balance has also decreased by \$6K → forecasting \$323K prior to depreciation treatment for FY16.

Mr. Deming updated. Mr. Deming discussed the three engagement letters received from the three audit firms. The audit firms who submitted engagement letters were Crosslin, Frasier, Dean & Howard and Rotherman & Co.

3. Development Report

Mr. Williams updated. He discussed the formation of the development committee with a goal of a committee meeting in December. Mrs. Mary Lee Bartlett has agreed to support STRIVE in any way, so the Board discussed how to engage her in the Development Committee. During Third Thursday, there were four guests who visited



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STRIVE and were interested in learning how they could get involved.

4. Facilities

Ms. Butler updated. We are currently up to date on our payment to TBG for the facility construction. The Board will begin to discuss Facility #2 during January's Board member. During the month of December and January, the Board agreed to connect with potential real estate firms to help with the search. Potential new member, Anna Richardson, is interested in serving on the facility adhoc committee.

5. Academic Committee Report

The Academic Committee will reconvene after Third Thursday in January in preparation of January's Board meeting.

6. Executive Director Report

A. Performance Update.

Mrs. Butler updated.

Assessments at STRIVE. *Growth Assessment.* The Winter MAP Assessment will take place starting the week of November 30. The Board will see the growth scores of students during January's Board meeting. *TN State Assessment.* Students will take their semester exams to gauge progress towards the state assessments during the week of December 14 through the Achievement Network.

Curriculum. STRIVE recently purchased to intervention curriculum to support teaching and learning at STRIVE. The two intervention curricula are i-Ready (for Reading Instruction) and Dreambox (for Math Instruction)

Mrs. Butler will be attending a trip in December to Summit Public Schools in California to learn about their Personalized Learning program for STRIVE's 6th grade class. The deadline for the first round of the program is December 18.

B. Student Update.

Mrs. Butler updated. To date, 62 students have applied to STRIVE for the 16-17 school year. 20 applicants have listed STRIVE as their #1 option.

Two students left STRIVE and returned to their home school, Dupont Tyler after



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the Thanksgiving Holiday. One student indicate the school was too strict and the family didn't like the School Leader or the teachers. As a school, we ensure that students are bringing healthy options to school and there was a concern of strictness regarding what could be brought for lunch daily. The other student was concerned with the early hours and the limited options to the dress code bottoms.

Two new students arrived from Donelson Middle School after Thanksgiving Holiday to attend STRIVE. To date, we currently have 117 students in attendance at STRIVE.

C. Staff Update.

Mrs. Butler updated. To date, we are interested in asking all teachers back next year. We will start actively recruiting new staff in December.

Mrs. Butler discussed a change in the staff model next year. In order to get the quality instruction expected at STRIVE, we are planning to hire a Chief Academic Officer (CAO) like position to the STRIVE team for the 16-17 school year. Ultimately, that person will begin at the end of the 15-16 school year in preparation of next school year. Instead of the Literacy Coach and the additional Special Education Instructional Specialist, the goal is to merge the funded amount to recruit for a CAO.

Mrs. Butler discussed the need for potential bus monitors on both school buses, so the bus drivers can focus on driving. Based on the budget, two monitors for the rest of the year will estimate \$15,408.

The Board also discussed including bonuses at the end of the school year for teachers to help with morale and to help support their hard work.

7. Board Votes

Mr. Williams updated. Mr. Williams opened the floor to any other discussions around the audit firm vote. The discussion was closed and Mr. Carter proposed a vote and the Rotherman & Co. was voted as the firm who will audit STRIVE.

Mr. Williams opened the floor to any other discussions around the Anna Richardson as a new STRIVE Board member. The discussion was closed and Mr. Carter proposed a vote and Mrs. Anna Richardson was voted in as a new Board member at



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STRIVE.

Mr. Williams opened the floor to any other discussions around the bus monitors. The discussion was closed and Mr. Smith proposed a vote and the vote to add bus monitors was approved.

8. The Board meeting was adjourned.

C. Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 26, 2016