

MINUTES OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Monday, December 9, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board was held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019 at the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board Office located at 239 N. Lamar Street Suite 207, Jackson, MS 39201. In attendance were:

Quentin Ransburg, Chair  
Leland Speed  
Chris Wilson  
\*Carolyn Willis

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ransburg at 10:21 a.m. \*Ms. Willis attended the meeting by phone.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was previously circulated to all board members for review. Chair Ransburg informed the board of a change to the agenda. Mississippi Education Accelerator's representative, Searcy Morgan, was unable to attend the meeting and present the annual report to the board. Mr. Ransburg requested a motion to adopt the agenda as modified to include the postponement of item number VI.

**Motion: Wilson**  
**Second: Speed**

**There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.**

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the minutes of the October 7, 2019 Board Meeting

The minutes of the October 7, 2019 board meeting were previously circulated to the board members for review. Chair Ransburg requested a motion for approval of the October 7, 2019 board meeting minutes.

**Motion: Willis**

Second: Wilson

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

#### ITEM III. CHAIR REPORT

None.

#### ITEM IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Karmacharya reported that site visits have been completed with the exception of Clarksdale Collegiate. She noted the rationale for using SchoolWorks for schools in renewal and reminded the board, that SchoolWorks has reviewed and documented the work of thousands of schools and districts since the companies' inception in 1998 using a researched and evidenced based criteria classroom observation tool along with their standard protocol.

Dr. Karmacharya reminded the board for schools in renewal, the Performance Framework and annual reports would provide the information for renewal decision making as the board considers ratings, timely document submissions, site visits, school tours, and other relevant information. Additionally, Dr. Karmacharya stated that the Authorizer's decision will be grounded in evidence of school's performance over the term of the charter contract.

Dr. Karmacharya noted that the spring RFP application cycle will begin very soon, and additional RFP's will likely be released in January and/or February for technical assistance related to the work of the CSP.

Dr. Karmacharya updated the board on her trip to NACSA in October. The primary focus of the bootcamp she attended was on the application cycle and best practices. Discussions were held regarding school autonomy, accountability, the importance of establishing expectations and the ongoing evaluation process which would include desk audits, site visits, and even the authorizer attending charter school board meetings.

Dr. Karmacharya referenced Dr. Brumfield's conversations with NACSA to finalize the scope of work for the authorizer evaluation as required by the CSP grant.

#### ITEM V. REPUBLIC SCHOOLS, INC. ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Jon Rybka, CEO of RePublic Schools, Inc., presented an update to the board on the approved schools, Revive Prep and RePublic High. In December 2018, RePublic requested delayed opening from 2019-20 to year 2021-22 and the board approved this request. According to Mr. Rybka, the original plan for Revive Prep was to be located in West Jackson. He reported the current reality of this original plan including the following factors:

- Ambition Prep opened this school year in West Jackson
- West Jackson has the lowest population density of the three target neighborhoods
- Similar growth design and partnership to Smilow Collegiate and Smilow Prep

According to Mr. Rybka, the original plan for RePublic High was based on their belief that by the time their students were 8<sup>th</sup> graders, there would be a weighted funding formula to accommodate the additional costs of running a high school and that there would be more specific facility funding available. Included in the report was an outline of the current barriers with regard to facilities and staffing needs that RePublic currently faces.

In conclusion, RePublic shared the goals for the growth of their existing charters over the next three years and included potential growth for the following three years with the development of Revive Prep and RePublic High.

Mr. Wilson voiced his concern for students exiting the 8<sup>th</sup> grade from a high-quality charter and stressed the importance of opening a high school into which the scholars can transition. Mr. Speed commented that opening a high school is a high priority. Chair Ransburg requested additional information regarding the number of 8<sup>th</sup> graders transitioning and surplus facilities and conversations with the district.

Mr. Wilson requested that RePublic provide the board with a written list of explanations to be included in the board retreat for further discussion.

#### ITEM VI. MSEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CSP GRANT PRESENTATION

Presenter absent. Annual report postponed.

#### ITEM VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was circulated to the board prior to the meeting. Ms. De Rossette presented the minor adjustments to the original proposed budget. The report reflected where revisions have been made and how much has been expended since the October 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The report included year to date expenses and how much is remaining in the budget.

#### ITEM VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Karmacharya referenced initial conversations with Bellwether regarding the Annual Report for 2019.

#### ITEM IX. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

- A. Proposal to adjust the board calendar:
  - a. Reschedule board retreat (date TBD) until new members are appointed
  - b. Hold the January meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>

Chair Ransburg provided the board with the rationale for revising the calendar.

B. FiveLine Creative Contract for stationary suite and brand guide.

Dr. Karmacharya presented the contract to the board. Mr. Wilson requested to be involved in approving the graphics.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item B.

**Motion: Wilson**

**Second: Speed**

**There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.**

C. Adopt revised FY20 budget as presented.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item C.

**Motion: Willis**

**Second: Speed**

**There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.**

D. Consider Approval: Leflore Legacy CSP Subgrant Application

Dr. Karmacharya reported that the application had been reviewed and approved. Once the application is approved by the board, Leflore legacy will be able to access dollars through the CSP. Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item D.

**Motion: Speed**

**Second: Wilson**

**There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.**

E. Consider Approval: RFP for Technical Assistance to Conduct Annual Survey (as required in the CSP grant)

Dr. Karmacharya informed the board that this is ready to be released with board approval. Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item E.

Motion: Wilson  
Second: Speed

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

Ms. Willis informed the board that she was unable to finish the meeting and left the call.

F. Approval to adopt Board Policy Part 403, Chapter 7, Rule 7.1-7.7 for Charter School Contract. Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment.

Chair Ransburg stated that item F will move to next meeting's agenda. Do not have a quorum.

None. ITEM X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None. ITEM XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None. ITEM XII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Ransburg noted that the next meeting will be Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Authorizer Board's office.

ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Recessed on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:35 a.m. to reconvene on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

  
Quentin Ransburg, Chair

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