



FOCUS ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 9, 2024

Board Minutes

4:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order

Board Chair James Rossman called the meeting to order at 4:45pm. Board members James Ballard, Karl Langefeld, Ildes Sotolo, Doug Amoroso, and Beth McIntyre were present. Staff members Josephine Isenbergh, Loretta Gallo-Lopez, and Megan Z. were present. Clay Clemens of Project Focus was also present.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA- Board member Mr. Langefeld made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes for November 18th, 2024. Ms. McIntyre seconded, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT - No members present

FOCUS MOMENT- Our school's Winter performance was last Friday December 6th. The children did a fabulous job performing and had lots of fun. Homemade cookies were offered to the guests, compliments to our culinary arts class

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS : Board chairman James Rossman reminded board members of their obligation to recuse themselves from voting on any items that may be a conflict of interest. He noted this will be on all Board Agendas moving forward

COMMITTEE ACTION REPORTS:

Financial Committee- The budget forecast was discussed. There is a significant decrease in enrollment versus projections. As a result, the school will be running at a serious deficit. While the school has reserves to offset this year's deficit, the administrative team was forced to mitigate deficits by a reduction of four staff members. There was a discussion on how IQ levels were lowered years back, and which had a direct impact on our criteria for enrollment. In addition, the voucher program may be affecting enrollment. Mr. Ballard made a recommendation to form a

steering committee to assess the current model of our program.

District financials were not provided at the meeting.

Governance Committee: Board member Mr. Amoroso will complete his 4-hour training by the end of the week. We are in compliance with all other required documents to the district. The committee is aware of the decline in student enrollment and had similar discussions in the meeting.

Marketing Committee: The main topic was enrollment. While the school continues to receive an adequate number of applications due to the 67 IQ mandate, we can no longer accept students who would have originally met our criteria. We are able to accept approximately 1 out of every 15 applicants that apply to the school.

The Administrative Team is working closely with our marketing specialist to develop an aggressive enrollment campaign utilizing various platforms.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT: We are working closely with the staff that were affected by the separation of employment to help them seek employment.

Mr. Rossman Approved Performance Goals, but they were not signed. A copy is in the packet for his signature to assure they will be submitted as soon as possible.

FOUNDATION REPORT Project Focus has had a great year. Mr. Clemens has been working closely with the Focus Academy Staff to assist them in their goal to increase enrollment. Last month Simply Healthcare approved a grant that will directly benefit Focus Academy's classroom learning experience. Additionally, Project Focus received a donation for Technology which will directly benefit Focus Academy. The Gala was a tremendous success and received good feedback from guests. There is a letter campaign being worked on, which we hope will bring in funding. Discussed Focus Forward Holiday cards and volunteering partners. Campus Coffee was brought up, and all are invited to attend.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussed a leadership plan to look more closely into the schools headcount and structure of the school. Mr. Amoroso volunteered to sit on the committee. Date to be determined.

COMMITTEE/ACTION ITEMS

District financials originally on the Agenda for approval were not provided. They will be added

Board member Mr. Langefeld motioned to approve the minutes for November 18th, 2024. Ms. McIntyre seconded, and unanimously approved.

approved unanimously. Meeting Adjourned 5:34p.m.

Upcoming Meetings: January 27th, 2025; and February 24th, 2025; March 31st, 2025; April 28th, 2025; May 19th, 2025

Minutes taken and prepared by Jennifer Cain, approved by board vote and confirmed by signature below.

JAMES M. ROSSMAN, CHAIR

Print Name Title

James M. Rossman

JAN 27, 2025

Signature and Date