



FOCUS ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 24, 2025

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, Elisabeth Kraft-Radka, and Meagan Zaharakes were present. Olga was present Via. Zoom. Absent- Clayton Clemens with Project Focus.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Acceptance of January board Minutes, Mr. Langefeld made a motion, Mr. Amoroso seconded, unanimously approved

Acceptance of Committee Reports

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

FOCUS MOMENT- Our Talent show is on February 27th.

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS - NONE

COMMITTEE ACTION REPORTS

Financial Committee- The discussion revolved around enrollment numbers and the school's overall net financial position. Project Manager, Olga Siegenthaler, will take a more active role in exploring alternatives to improve enrollment. District Financials reviewed, no changes to report on.

Governance Committee- The employee handbook requires updates, particularly concerning PTO protocols and safety policies. Key points on the safety policy include keeping doors locked, ensuring teachers and staff are vigilant about campus security, in addition to marking hard corners in classrooms. The school must have safety policies and procedures, including an actionable disciplinary plan for non-compliance.

The Standard Operating Procedures Manual for the NSLP was reviewed by board members. There were questions about the necessity of this policy, and the administration elaborated on the challenges of being an independent sponsor and the continued financial loss associated with the program.

Marketing Committee – The Administration is prioritizing enrollment strategies for the 2025-26 school year.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

February FTE update-we have successfully enrolled eight additional students since the October FTE , leading to a modest increase for the February survey FEFP. Additional funding is welcomed to the struggling budget.

The Administration has a recommendation to transition from BOT to Valley Bank. We have learned through Clay Clemens and the Project Focus organization that the bank is interested in community support and has been very supportive of Focus initiatives.

The FI Dept of Agriculture is auditing our NSLP operations, prompting the need to update certain documents and consider measures to mitigate financial losses associated with the program..

FOUNDATION REPORT Executive Director -

- Breakfast Invites have gone out for partners in progress and we are getting great responses. Valley Bank will be the sponsoring the event and covering costs.
- Jacksons considered an option for Happy Hour
- No updates on Gala, but investigations into the Tampa Yacht and Country Club are underway.
- Engaging with YP team to develop their group.a
- YP will host their first Happy Hour on March 14th at 1920.
- A Glow Row event is scheduled for June. Looking for 10 teams of 10 for a 5 hour rowing competition.
- Reviewed the many opportunities afforded FA in January.
- Project Focus was the recipient of Ultra Violed Giving. Discussing the needs of the school
- Discussed a new architect who may help with a new campus in the future.
- Engagements with Dr. Patel Foundation have occurred.
- The transition program has successfully created over 2,200 Aqua weights for Aqua Tech.
- Tampa Family Health Centers provided two dental bus days on our campus.
- Voc Rehab begins on Saturday, March 10th, and with a full roster.

COMMITTEE/ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of January 27, 2025 Minutes - Done above
- Approval December District Financials - Mr. Amoroso made a motion Mr. Ballard seconded unanimously approved.
- Approval of Banking Changes- Mr. Ballard made a motion, Mr. Langefeld seconded, and unanimously approved. Ms. McIntyre recused herself from voting.
- Approval of Employee Handbook Changes- Ms. McIntyre made a motion, Mr. Langefeld seconded, and unanimously approved.
- Approval of School Safety and Violations Policy & Procedures- Mr. Langefeld made a motion, Ms. Sotolo seconded, and unanimously approved.
- NSLP- Ms. Sotolo made a motion, Ms. McIntyre seconded, 3- yes 2- no's (Amoroso and Mr Ballard were nays.) motion passed.

- o Disbursement of expired inventory- Ms. McIntyre made a motion, Ms. Langefeld seconded, unanimously approved.

Upcoming Meetings: March 31st, 2025: April 28th, 2025: May 19th, 2025: June 23rd, 2025.

Adjournment: Board Chair Rossman accepted a motion to adjourn, Ms. Langefeld made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Sotolo seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn at 5:30pm.

Reminder: Board members must recuse from voting on any item that may be a conflict of interest.

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 *3/31/25*

Signature and Date