**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**BEACON COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL**

**January 13, 2021**

The Board of Directors for Beacon College Prep Inc. held its ANNUAL MEETING on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 @ 1pm via Zoom Conference Call.

**Members Present**

Mr. Jeffrey Miller, President and Board Chair

Patrick Range, Vice President

Melissa Krinzman, Secretary

Octavio Verdeja, Treasurer

Virginia Akar, Member

**Others Present**

Mr. Patrick Evans, Principal, Beacon College Prep

Terron Ferguson, Director of Advancement, Beacon College Prep

John Flickinger, Director of Development

**Call to Order:** The Annual Meeting for the 2019-20 fiscal year was called to order at 1:15pm by Mr. Jeffrey Miller.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the October 7, 2020 board meeting were reviewed. Mr. Miller moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Range seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Board Opening Discussion**

The Board engaged in a general discussion relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the school and its students and families. The following points were made/discussed:

* The board’s top priority remains the health & safety of our students and families. At the same time there is real concern for the challenges of virtual learning and the negative impact this is having on BCP students both respect to their education and their social-emotional health and development. The board discussed the importance of striking a balance between being “overly cautious” and getting children back to in person learning.
* With respect to health and safety of students and staff - Mr. Evans reported that there have been only 5 reported cases of Covid-19 at the school and that the safety protocols instituted by him and his team seem to be working.
* Mr. Evans also expressed grave concern for the learning losses being experienced by our students and the stresses on our teachers who are managing both in-person and distance learning environments.
* Mr. Evans pointed out that approximately 40-45% of students have chosen to participate in-person this year. This is about the average district wide. Mr. Evans pointed out that the directive from the state of Florida gives families the choice to participate either virtually or in-person. Low in-person attendance rates reflect the fact that our families feel especially vulnerable given their lack of access to health care, income/job insecurities, oftentimes crowded living conditions and other factors that make black and brown people in fact more vulnerable to contracting the virus, getting seriously ill and dying.
* Mr. Evans also reported that there are more consistently truant kids than ever before and that these were almost all distance learning students. His staff is acting now to bring them back into the learning eco-system. At this point the increased number of truant students has not affected our FEFP enrollment/payments.
* Mr. Verdeja thinks many private and parochial schools have in-person attendance rates well over 50%. He expressed concern that the learning gap between our students and these mostly white and middle/upper income students will only continue to grow the longer our students remain out of school.
* Ms. Akar agreed and said that this unfortunate situation mirrors and is the result of the persistent racial and economic inequities in our society.
* The board discussed ways to address the issue and encourage more students to return to school for in-person learning and provide more opportunities for tutoring and extra help. Some of the suggestions included:
  + Creating a video that addresses some of the questions and concerns families may have with respect to safely returning to school. Two doctors have agreed to participate in the creation of the video – Dr. Elana Oberstein and Dr. Tina Caroll-Scott.
  + After School Tutoring – expand as much as resources allow.
  + Saturday School – re-start this program as soon as feasible.
  + Summer School – mandate summer school for all students if pandemic has resided some and it’s safe.
  + Work with Breakthrough and the Children’s Trust to supplement current grant to provide more resources and enable a larger program serving more students. Possibly leverage BT HS students to volunteer to tutor over the summer.
* Mr. Miller asked about FSA testing and if this is still planned for this year. Mr. Evans said that despite pushback from districts across the state Gov. Desantis was still planning to move forward with testing.

**Treasurer’s Report**:

1. 2019-2020 BCP CORP Single Purpose Audit: Mr. Verdeja reviewed the special purpose financial statements from the recent audit of BCP, Inc. He noted that the corporate entity showed a deficit for 2019-20 mostly due to depreciation. Otherwise, the auditors offered a clean opinion.
2. November Financial Statements: The board discussed the current financial position of both schools. Mr. Evans noted that the state owes the school over $155K in CSP reimbursements as well as a promised increase in FEFP revenues related to teacher raises implemented in October. When this revenue is considered both schools are close to breakeven.

**School Leader Report:**

1. Covid-19/School Opening Update: Mr. Evans reported on this in the opening discussion. He noted that he plans to re-start after school programming with funding through the CARES act ($25K) and wil also re-start Saturday School Tutoring as soon as possible.
2. 2020-21 Budget Re-Forecast: Mr. Evans is finalizing a revised budget and will circulate to the board soon for their review.
3. Payroll Provider & Employee Benefit Plans: Mr. Evans reported that he and Mr. Flickinger worked on switching BCP’s payroll provider from ADP to Paylocity. This along with a new, richer employee benefits package negotiated outside of ADP will result in a cost savings of close to $100K per year.

**Governance Committee Report**: Ms. Akar presented two nominees for new board member positions as part of the board’s strategic focus on expanding and diversifying the board.

* Ms. Gail Dotson
* Ms. Nashava Kent

The board considered each nominee. Some concern was expressed about on-boarding new members during the pandemic but after some discussion the board agreed to move forward on each nominee.

**Patrick Range moved that Gail Dotson be elected as a new member of the BCP board of directors.** Mr. Verdeja seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to elect Ms. Gail Dotson to the Beacon College Prep Governing Board.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Range to call Ms. Dotson and welcome her to the board and encouraged other board members to call as well.

Mr. Evans spoke in favor of Ms. Kent and the value of having a BCP parent on the board. The board discussed the pros and cons of having a parent serve on the board. They agreed that the benefits outweigh the potential negatives.

Mr. Miller asked if the Governance Committee had interviewed Ms. Kent. Ms. Akar said that they had not interviewed or met her yet. Mr. Miller recommended that the Governance Committee interview Ms. Kent soon before proceeding with a vote. Ms. Akar and Ms. Krinzman agreed to speak with Ms. Kent in the very near future and bring her name back to the board at the next board meeting. Ms. Kent’s nomination was tabled until then.

Ms. Akar asked the board if there were any other individuals, they would like to consider for a board position. She mentioned the new editor of the Miami Herald might be a possibility. Mr. Miller mentioned we should investigate Amazon as they opened a new facility in the area.

Mr. Evans noted that the by-laws allowed for at least 11 board members.

**Development Committee** **Report**:

1. Give Miami Day: Terron Ferguson reported that we raised approximately $27,995 from about 170 donors during Give Miami Day. Another $30,000 was raised by John Flickinger from two family foundations after GMD for a total of over $58,000.
   1. The board discussed how best to use the funds. Mr. Evans said that he would come to the next board meeting with recommendations.
   2. Mr. Flickinger noted that all funds raised privately are deposited to a special internal account and not co-mingled with school revenue.
2. PPP Loan Forgiveness: Mr. Flickinger reported that the Loan Forgiveness Application was submitted last month as soon as the online bank portal was opened, and we should hear within 6 weeks.
3. Insured Bank Deposits: Mr. Flickinger noted that the combined cash on hand in BCP accounts at Valley National Bank exceeded the FDIC insurance and recommended that the board take action to assure that all funds were insured. Mr. Miller asked Mr. Flickinger to follow-up and open new accounts in other institutions. If possible, the funds should remain liquid and be placed in interest bearing accounts.

The meeting was adjourned 3:15pm. The next board meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2021.

*The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she is a Director and/or Officer of Beacon College Prep, Inc, a not-for-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, and that the above is a true and correct copy of the meeting minutes of the Board of Directors of said corporation & the individual charter schools sponsored by the said corporation*.

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on April 7, 2021.

Beacon College Prep, Inc.

A Florida not-for-profit corporation

By:

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Melissa Krinzman, Secretary