

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BEACON COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL
April 22, 2022**

The Board of Directors for Beacon College Prep Inc. meet on Friday, April 22, 2022 @ 9:08 pm at 2750 NW 135th Street Opa-Locka, FL 33054.

Members Present

Jeffrey Miller, President
Patrick Range, Vice President via Zoom
Octavio Verdeja, Treasurer via Zoom
Melissa Krinzman, Secretary
Virginia Akar, Member
Wifredo Fernandez

Staff & Others Present

Mr. Patrick Evans, Principal, Beacon College Prep
John Flickinger, Director of Development
Richard Moreno, Building Hope via Zoom

Call to Order: Mr. Miller welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:08am.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 27, 2022 board meeting were reviewed. Mr. Fernandez moved to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Akar seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

School Leader Report:

1. 2022/23 School Calendar – Mr. Evans presented the school calendars for BCP Elementary and Middle School to the board.

Mr. Miller moved to approve the calendars for both schools as presented. Mr. Range seconded the motion, and the board unanimously approved the 2022-23 school calendars.

2. Bezos Academy update – Mr. Evans reported that the Bezos Academy leadership indicated that they were not quite ready to commit to a space and that the BCP space was not a perfect fit. They agreed to circle back with each other over the summer.
3. MDCPS School Evaluation – each school passed the compliance evaluation and audit conducted by the school district.
4. FSA Testing – Mr. Evans reviewed the regime of test prep, tutoring and other academic support being provided to BCP students both after school and on Saturdays. Approximately 50-70 students are attending Saturday school.
5. Teacher Recruitment: Mr. Evans reported that 10 teachers are leaving the school at the end of the school year and he will need to hire 15-20 new teachers to meet enrollment projections for 2022-23.

Governance Committee Report: Mr. Evans reported that the Board terms for Mr. Miller, Ms. Krinzman and Mr. Range have expired and recommended that the board take action to renew through election at the next annual meeting. Mr. Evans also asked that Mr. Miller and Mr. Range submit updated disclosure forms as soon as they are able.

Treasurer's Report:

1. **Financial Statements:** Mr. Verdeja reviewed the financial statements for each school and noted that as of January 31, 2022 there was a combined loss of \$750K. As reported to the board by Mr. Evans back in January, this deficit should be offset by the end of the fiscal year by Essar grant fund receivables of approximately \$815,000. Mr. Evans noted that the school district still owes BCP an estimated \$400,000 in Title 1 funds. He and Mr. Verdeja are therefore projecting a surplus for the end of the year.

Mr. Miller moved to accept the financials as presented. Mr. Fernandez seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to accept the financials.

2. **BCP, Inc. Single Audit:** Mr. Verdeja reported that the single audit of BCP, Inc. has been completed with no noted exceptions.
3. **2022-23 Budget:** Mr. Evans presented preliminary budget projections for each school for the 2022-23 fiscal year.
 - a. Combined enrollment is being projected at 588-612. Breakeven enrollment is projected at 600 students between both schools.
 - b. The Elementary school is projected to have a surplus of \$202,988. The Middle school is projecting a loss of \$199,820.
 - c. The budget does not consider the projected increase in FEFP funding from the state for next year. The state budget raises per-student funding to \$8,143, which is the highest amount of per-student funding in Florida's history and an increase of \$710 since the 2018-2019 school year.
 - d. The budget also does not account for additional funding due to Miami Dade charter schools due to a recent court ruling affirming that charter schools are entitled to receive a cut of property-tax money approved by Miami-Dade County voters in 2018 for improving teacher pay and school safety. BCP could receive up to \$400K over the next two years and up to \$700K in retroactive funds according to Rich Moreno.
 - e. Mr. Evans pointed out that if the board moves to combine the two BCP charters this could represent a savings of about \$70,000 per year and alleviate a significant administrative and management burden on the school.

Mr. Miller moved to adopt the 2022-23 budget as presented. Mr. Fernandez seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Other Business:

1. **Patrick Evans Contract:** Mr. Fernandez asked about the agenda item that was passed over relating to Mr. Evans contract, compensation, job description and formalization of the performance evaluation for the school leader position.
 - a. The board agreed to take this up at its next meeting along with the question of succession planning.

2. Board Chair Discussion: Mr. Miller raised the idea of merging or collaborating with another charter school network. He said that he had visited a KIPP school in Miami recently and was impressed. He asked the board to consider the merits of a potential relationship with KIPP or another similar network. He mentioned the many challenges BCP has faced recently with the pandemic, teacher recruitment and funding of additional resources to better serve BCP students. He suggested that a merger or collaboration of some sort with a larger charter school network might benefit the school.

A board discussion ensued, and the following points were made:

- A larger network might be able to help with administrative support, teacher recruitment and fund raising, and it was worth exploring the potential for collaboration, partnership or possible merger.
- There might be potential to qualify for Schools of Hope funding.
- In conversations with Mr. Miller, Daryll Cobb, CEO of the Charter School Growth Fund, suggested two other schools to consider – True North Academy and Hive Prep. Mr. Cobb did not think that KIPP was a good fit for BCP culturally. And while they have been very successful raising money for their schools in Miami even with these additional resources BCP still outperforms their schools here academically.
- Mr. Verdeja mentioned that both KIPP and True North Academy are clients of his.
- It was pointed out that both Hive and True North serve very different communities than BCP, but they might be interested in expanding into our demographic.
- It was noted that the school district would have to agree and approve of any merger.
- Mr. Miller said he would like to begin the process of opening the door for different possibilities and if we see an opportunity that could benefit the school, we should seize it. He asked each board member to try to visit the above-mentioned schools before the end of the school year and said that either Rich Moreno or Mr. Cobb could make introductions.
- The board agreed that there should be a serious analysis of the costs and benefits of any partnership or merger. That there needed to be a positive “synergy” to consider any such move and there should be no set timetable.
- The board agreed that the interests of BCP students and families takes precedence over every other consideration and that no merger would take place unless it was in the best interest of our school community.
- The board agreed that nothing will happen without Patrick Evans buy-in and consent. If Mr. Evans is not entirely comfortable with any partnership/collaboration/merger than the board would not move forward.
- Mr. Fernandez requested to sit on the committee charged with exploring this idea.

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 TBD.

Beacon College Prep, Inc. A Florida not-for-profit corporation

By: _____
Melissa Krinzman, Secretary

Date _____

Beacon College Prep Board Minutes April 22, 2022