

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BEACON COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL  
June 23, 2021**

The Board of Directors for Beacon College Prep Inc. meet on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 @ 3:30pm via Zoom Conference Call.

**Members Present**

Patrick Range, Vice President  
Octavio Verdeja, Treasurer  
Virginia Akar, Member  
Gail Dotson, 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:** Having determined that a quorum was present Mr. Range called the meeting to order at 3:41pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the April 7, 2021, board meeting were reviewed. Ms. Krinzman moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Verdeja seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Patrick Evans highlighted a recent Miami Herald article relating to Black student performance on state-wide tests and the learning gap that has widened over the course of the pandemic due to inequities in our education system and access to technology. He offered his observations about where BCP students were at educationally and, within this context, discussed his priorities for the upcoming school year intended to address the educational needs of our students.

**Treasurer's Report:**

1. **PPP Loan Forgiveness:** Mr. Flickinger noted that the PPP Loan Forgiveness application was finally approved and that the loan has been converted to a grant.
2. **Financial Statements:** Mr. Verdeja reviewed the financial statements for each school and noted that as of 5/31/21 both schools are operating very close to budget before the PPP grant revenue is taken into account.
  - a. Mr. Verdeja noted that the middle school was facing a deficit for the end of this fiscal year and the elementary school shows a net gain. The board discussed making a grant to the elementary school to the middle school to cover this deficit.

- b. Members agreed that since the middle school was founded in part to support the mission of the elementary school by providing continuity in education for its students the proposed grant is completely aligned with the purpose and mission of the elementary school.

**RESOLUTION-GRANT TO MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Mr. Verdeja made a motion to fund the middle school via either a direct grant or forgiveness of any indebtedness of the middle school to the elementary school. Ms. Akar seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to approve.

Mr. Verdeja asked Mr. Flickinger to speak with Rich Moreno and the school accountants to assure that the wishes of the board are carried out before the close of this fiscal year.

3. **2021-2022 Budget:** Mr. Evans and Mr. Verdeja reviewed the budget projections for 2021-2022 with the board.
  - a. Mr. Verdeja noted that the Elementary School was projecting net income of \$343K while the Middle school was projecting a loss of \$255K. A discussion ensued regarding the differences in cost of operations between the middle school and elementary school. Mr. Evans said main differences were in the amount of FEFP per student and the teacher/staffing requirements are greater for the middle school. It was also noted that the middle school is still on a growth projectory and will not reach breakeven until it achieves an enrollment of 300-330 students.
  - b. Mr. Evans pointed out that the Florida DOE has still not released its FEFP revenue formula for 2021-22 so the budget reflects a conservation “best guess” as to FEFP income. He also noted that this budget reflects the priorities mentioned earlier and highlighted the following:
    - i. Staffing reflects the hiring of two more teachers to focus on intervention.
    - ii. There is more funding for professional development for teachers.
    - iii. Transportation costs are being reduced/eliminated.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BUDGET:** Mr. Verdja moved to approve the 2021-22 budget as presented. Ms. Dotson seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the board.

4. **Charter Amendment to Merge Charters:** The board raised the issue again of merging the elementary and middle school charters. They noted that the schools really operate as one entity and should operate under one charter. This would eliminate the need for separate accounting systems, preparation of two budgets every year and making accounting adjustments at year end as well as reduce costs significantly around such things as district fees, etc.
  - a. Mr. Evans pointed out that he has asked the school district to consider such an amendment for the past two years but the MDCPS Charter School office has refused because of the “D” grade each school received 2 years ago. He suggested that with strong board support they might reconsider.

- b. Board Members discussed the issue and agreed that merger of the charters is in the best interest of the school. They agreed to write a letter to the Assistant Superintendent of Charter Schools requesting a hearing to discuss an amendment to our charters. Mr. Evans and Mr. Flickinger will draft the letter and all board members will sign off.

### **Governance Committee**

1. Update of Bylaws for Board Member Terms and Term Limits: MS Akar noted that noted that no action was taken at the last board meeting to update the by-laws with respect to board terms and limits. The board discussed and noted the following:
  - a. Our current bylaws do not specify any term limits for members or officers.
  - b. It's important that members know how long they are expected to serve and that the board be able to plan responsibly for transitions and successions of leadership.
  - c. Current Bylaws should remove specific names and define terms more clearly.
  - d. With the exception of Ms. Akar and Ms. Dotson the current board has been serving since the founding of the organization in 2014. It was agreed that with new organizations it's desirable to have continuity with respect to board membership/leadership.
  - e. Mr. Verdeja recommended that any changes place a priority on this continuity as the organization is still young. He also recommended that the board consider rotating chairs and key leadership positions.
  - f. The board also discussed having automatic renewal of terms and revolving terms with a required one year off between terms.
  - g. Ms. Akar will work with Mr. Flickinger to draft an amendment to the current bylaws and present it to the board at the next meeting.
2. Board Expansion: Mr. Evans said he spoke to Mr. Miller recently regarding the need to add at least one more board member in order to comply with the MDCPS mandate to maintain an odd number of board members. Mr. Miller mentioned that Ms. Krinzman had recommended Mr. Wilfredo Fernandez for the next open board slot. The board discussed Mr. Fernandez's qualifications and strong interest in joining the BCP board.
  - a. Ms. Akar recommended that Ms. Krinzman send Mr. Fernandez an official invitation to apply to the board and that the board take-up him nomination at the next board meeting. Mr. Evans agreed to inform Ms. Krinzman of the board's request and recommended that the Governance Committee interview before the next meeting.
  - b. The board also discussed the desirability of expanding the board to at least 9 members. They agreed that the board would be stronger and more effective if there were increased diversity of thought and experiences as well as more racial diversity. Ms. Akar noted that the board could get more done and be more effective if there were more members to take on responsibility. She also noted that a specific area of expertise and need on the board was PR & Marketing.

Brand Awareness – BCP best kept secret in Miami – no one knows about us!

## **School Operations Report:**

1. 2021 Priorities
  - a. Focus on Quality & Innovation – to address teacher retention and learning gaps with our students
2. End of Year 2020 – see attached report.
3. Enrollment & Staffing
  - a. On target with enrollment with 452 for elementary and 270 for middle school.
  - b. Teacher Recruitment is a year-round process and Mr. Evans will assign a staff to assist with this throughout school year.
4. Summer Enrichment/Remediation
  - a. 130 students enrolled for Breakthrough summer program
  - b. 70 students enrolled in summer school for remediation.
5. 2021-22 Annual Calendar
  - a. Mr. Evans presented the school year calendars for both the middle and elementary schools for board approval.

**RESOLUTION: Mr. Verdja moved to accept the school year calendars as presented. Ms. Dotson seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to approve the 2021-2022 school year calendars for the middle and elementary schools.**

6. Year Round School 2022-23
  - a. Mr. Evans proposed that the board consider moving to year-round schooling to address learning gaps with BCP students and the issue of summer learning loss – commonly referred to as “summer slide.” The advantages of a year-round calendar include:
    - i. More school days and academic learning time.
    - ii. More Professional Development days for teachers.
    - iii. More Enrichment opportunities for students.
    - iv. Year-Round calendar is more sustainable for teachers and may help with teacher quality and retention.
    - v. This would distinguish BCP as and innovative “thought leader” in education circles.
  - b. Mr. Evans noted that a year-round calendar would increase costs about \$250-300K per year and proposed that the board consider fund-raising around this concept.
  - c. It was also pointed out that a charter amendment would be necessary and that the board bring this amendment to the school district alongside the merger amendment.
7. Development Needs
  - a. The board discussed the need to raise money to support the mission of the school. It was pointed out that the needs of BCP students cannot be met on the current FEFP in Florida – one of the lowest per student allocations in the country. It was also noted that successful charter schools serving demographics similar to BCP aggressively fund raise. KIPP Miami, for example, has raised several million in support of its Miami school in the last 2-3 years.

- b. Ms. Akar suggested that the board consider hiring a consultant to work directly with the board and help craft a development plan with specific deliverables. Ms. Akar mentioned that Ms. Lydia Munoz was currently working with Strong Girls to develop such a plan. She offered to arrange a call with Ms. Munoz to discuss working with BCP.
- c. Some funding needs identified include:
  - i. Year-Round School Calendar
  - ii. Wrap Around Services – social worker, counselors
  - iii. Intervention Specialist
  - iv. Facilities

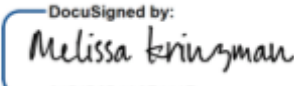
Mr. Verdeja moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Doston seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Mr. Evans said he will circulate a calendar tool to schedule board meetings for the next year beginning in August.

*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:   
61648281A8F444E  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Krinzman, Secretary

Date 9-28-2021