

**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, September 08, 2022 @ 4:30 pm at 2750 NW 135th Street Opa-Locka, FL 33054.

Members Present

Jeffrey Miller, President
Patrick Range, Vice President
Octavio Verdeja, Treasurer
Virginia Akar, Member
Wifredo Fernandez
Gail Dotson

Staff & Others Present

Mr. Patrick Evans, Principal, Beacon College Prep
Richard Moreno, Building Hope
Carlos Gonzalez, Board Liaison

Call to Order: Mr. Miller welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the previous board meeting were reviewed. Mr. Verdeja moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Range seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Opening Session: Mr. Miller presented Carlos Gonzalez to the Board. Mr. Gonzalez is the founding school leader of HIVE Preparatory School in NW Miami-Dade. HIVE is a high performing, a-rated, school of excellence and was established in 2009. Mr. Miller explained that Mr. Gonzalez is being considered for the Board Liaison position and that this position is designed to support the school level administrators and evaluate the school's operations for the Board and present these findings within the Board Liaison Report in future board meetings.

- Ms. Dotson asked for more information regarding the board liaison position, why it is being presented, where is the previous consultant, and who is the charter school growth fund?
- Mr. Miller explained that the previous consultant was not a board member and that the role of the consultant was to launch the school, but not so much with operating a charter school. Mr. Miller explained that the minutes of the previous meeting show that the board decided then to explore options to provide support to the school and that this meeting will be used to vote for the change from the consultant to the board liaison.
- Ms. Akar stated that the governance committee will elaborate on this further a little later in the meeting.

Mr. Miller asked that a few governance items be addressed at this time:

- Mr. Miller moved to approve the of Governing Board Meeting Dates and Times presented for the SY2022.23. Mr. Verdeja moved the notion and Mr. Fernandez provided a second. The Board approved unanimously.
- Mr. Miller asked for a review of the changes made to the annual budgets. Mr. Moreno explained that a few changes impacted an increase in revenue since the budget was first completes. Enrollment has increased, the tax referendum funds have been assigned an

increased amount, and changes were made to utilization of some of the ESSER ARP funds. Mr. Miller moved to approve. Mr. Fernandez second, Board approved unanimously.

School Leader Report:

1. SY2021.22 Accountability Results – Mr. Evans presented that the middle school earned an A-grade and that the elementary school earned a C-grade. Both grades out-perform all local schools. Mr. Evans explained that very strong growth (learning gains) is the main contributor and that Beacon’s gains are some of the best in the entire state.
2. SY2022.23 – Mr. Evans expressed that the start of the current school year is the strongest that he could remember. Despite a teacher shortage, the school has more students enrolled than last year and the recent successes have brought the staff together.
3. Consolidation of Charters – Mr. Evans presented that the Board should seriously consider merging the two charters into one charter. A merge would save the school nearly 100k as well as reduce a large amount of administrative duties. Mr. Miller motioned to consolidate, Mr. Range moved it forward, Ms. Akar provided a second. The board approved unanimously with pursuing the consolidation. Mr. Evans stated that he will follow up with the school district for instructions and next steps.
4. School Safety: Mr. Evans presented the school safety assurances. This document guides the school to comply with all of the State’s safety requirements. Examples: FSSAT completion, tour of site, FortifyFL, TAT, etc. Beacon is compliant with all requirements.
5. Out of Field Waivers: Mr. Evans presented a list of certified teachers that are teaching in grade levels or subjects that they are not directly certified in. He explained that out of field waivers are required by the State when situations like this arise. Mr. Evans explained each waiver and asked for approval. The board approved unanimously.
6. Title 1: Mr. Evans presented the Title 1 Budget for the current school year.

Governance Committee Report: Mr. Evans explained that the middle school is going through its renewal of contract this year. All of the required documents are being submitted and a date for the meeting with the district has not been determined yet. The school will inquire if the consolidation of contracts can be done in this meeting.

Treasurer’s Report:

1. Annual Financial Audit: Mr. Verdeja reported that the financial audits are almost complete, the deadline is September 15. As of now, there seems to be no deficiencies or concerns.
2. 2022-23 Budget: Mr. Verdeja presented the updated budget projections for each school for the 2022-23 fiscal year.
 - a. Combined enrollment is being projected at 530-550.
 - b. Tax referendum funds have increased by a few hundred dollars per student.
 - c. Mr. Verdeja explained that the budget is in line with expectations and that it is essentially a break-even budget. However, there are funds expected to be received from the ESSER II grant that have been requested for reimbursement to the district. The amount is over 100k. Mr. Verdeja asked that Building Hope create a reconciliation of grant funds so that these funds can be better tracked.

Other Business:

1. Principal Succession Plan / Contract: Mr. Evans expressed concern with to do his duties at Beacon without a contract. Mr. Miller initiated a discussion with the board members regarding a contract.
 - Mr. Verdeja explained that his research concluded that contracts for school leaders are not common but do exist.
 - Mr. Miller asked Mr. Gonzalez of his knowledge regarding contracts. Mr. Gonzalez explained that he is not aware of any school leaders with contracts. That he is familiar with offer letters and compensation parameters, but not contracts.
 - Mr. Verdeja asked if a severance package would be a middle ground.
 - Mr. Fernandez asked what is the potential consequence if a contract is not offered and asked if Mr. Evans is more than a principal. He also expressed that a formal performance review may help determine the parameters of a contract.
 - Ms. Dotson agreed with Mr. Fernandez.
 - Mr. Range expressed that a lot has been placed on Mr. Evans and asked if the school can afford to lose him.
 - Mr. Miller stated that a severance package would surmount to a one-year contract and that this may work well. Mr. Verdeja agreed.
 - Mr. Range also agreed and asked for some metrics to be created.
 - Ms. Dotson stated that Mr. Miller should meet with Mr. Evans to discuss the severance package idea. Mr. Miller agreed.
 - The board agreed to address this situation in the next board meeting.

2. **Board Chair Discussion:** Mr. Miller presented the Board Liaison job description and contract to the Board. The position is assigned to support the school leadership in every way possible as well as present to the Board all findings. The contract being presented was created by Arnold Law Firm and reviewed by the school's law firm, Tripp Scott. Mr. Miller explained that Mr. Evans and Mr. Gonzalez have been working together since July, that the contract should be retroactive to July 1, 2022, and that the September payment should include July and August. The board agreed unanimously.
 - Mr. Miller asked that Mr. Gonzalez present the details of the evaluation program that will be used to evaluate the school leader and to present the findings in the upcoming board meeting.

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 _____