



**Educating for College.
Empowering for Life.**

Beacon College Prep

2750 NW 135th Street
Opa Locka, Florida 33054
Telephone: 786-353-6109
Fax 786-583-8677

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BEACON COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL
March 13, 2024**

The Board of Directors for Beacon College Prep Inc. meet on Wednesday, March 13 2024 @ 10:30am at 2750 NW 135th Street Opa-Locka, FL 33054.

Members Present

Jeffrey Miller, President
Octavio Verdeja, Treasurer
Virginia Akar, Member
Melissa Krinzman, Member

Members Not Present

Staff & Others Present

Richard Moreno, Consultant
Carlos Gonzalez, Board Liaison
Sergio Bonilla, School Principal
Melissa Hernandez, Guest
Gordon Crozier, Guest

Call to Order: Meeting Called to Order @ 10:30 am. Attendance was taken through a roll call; all board members present. Mr. Miller reviewed the meeting's agenda and reviewed the prior board meetings minutes and highlights.

Previous board meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

Mr. Miller welcomed the attendees and discussed the status of the school as it reaches its half-way point of the current school year. He highlighted the return of 4 teachers that were a part of Beacon's past and recently reached out to the school hoping to return as well as the stabilization of the school's enrollment as key indicators of the development of the school's culture and environment. Ms. Akar agreed and added that the community has reached out to her to align with this statement.

Mr. Miller congratulated the school on hosting the Spring Festival / Open House. HE said the run out was strong and that the families enjoyed themselves. He also stated that the faculty and staff did a good job running the event while also building relationships with parents and students. Mr. Gonzalez included that families from the community, not current Beacon families,



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attended also and that some filled out paperwork for a potential transfer into the school this year. Mr. Miller also added that the school admin was impressive and hardworking this day.

School Governance & Operations: Mr. Bonilla presented the school's PM2 and other mid-year data points. He explained that this data should show two main things, growth from PM1 and proficiency numbers closing the gap with the district average. All grade levels and subject areas showed improvement from PM1 to PM2. The lowest growth was in 3rd grade (both math and ELA) and the greatest increase was in 5th grade ELA and 6th grade math. Mr. Bonilla also shared that the gap in proficiency between the district average and Beacon closed in all grades and subjects, except for 3rd grade. Finally, Mr. Bonilla shared that the overall reading and overall math proficiency scores for Beacon at PM2 this school year is higher than PM2 last school year. The overall analysis is that the students at Beacon are continuing the trend of increasing its proficiency across the board.

Mr. Bonilla then presented the school's gameplan on how it is responding to this PM2 data. Elementary school workshops will now be aligned to specific standards and subgroups taken from the PM2 data. These groups will be re-assessed via exit tickets every week and that a new standard will be taught the following week. Students that do not perform well in the exit tickets will then be pulled out of some courses throughout the school day to continue addressing this skill. Within the classrooms, teachers will align this data to their small group lessons to provide further reinforcement. In middle school, all Literature courses and Math Labs will align their curriculum to the results of the PM2 data. Students will be re-taught the specific skills identified and small group lessons will be intensified to provide specialized attention. Finally, teachers will now begin using some of their planning time pull students into small groups to address specific needs. The overall idea is to continue teaching the curriculum as intended in the core classes while re-teaching the deficient skills in a parallel schedule, without overworking the staff too soon.

Enrollment / Marketing: The current enrollment at the school is 839. Mr. Gonzalez explained that the current trend in declining enrollment has a lot to do with the new expectations at the school as well as with the mobility of the community. The school is aggressively calling all applicants to replace these spots as quickly as possible. In addition, the school has engaged its social media marketing program. The program is also being utilized to market enrollment at the school for the upcoming school year. The front office is offering positions to all applicants for this school year first, but then offering a spot for the next school if they decline one for this school year. The current analysis of this program is positive. Beacon is receiving more application than "normal" at this time of the school year. In addition, Beacon has recently hired Mr. Adderly. Mr. Adderly is officially the school's nurse (certified) but he is also being assigned to develop community relationships and partnerships. He is from the community and works for many years with Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Bonilla in the same capacity. Mr. Adderly has already engaged a few



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of the local churches to help market the school as well as help get the Beacon students more involved in their community.

Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Crozier explained that the facilities of the school are being improved (landscaping, painting, custodial, maintenance, etc.) so that the school can conduct tours for prospective parents. With a beautiful campus and a great culture, tours will be highly successful.

Governance: Mr. Gonzalez presented that the K-8 contract with the school district has recently been finalized. Until very recently, the school was not receiving the proper funding or communication from the State and District. It was finally discovered that the district confused the renewal of the middle school and the convergence into a K-8. Until very recently, the school was receiving funds only for the middle school students and that grants were being awarded only for middle school students. The recent contract has corrected these issues and funding is now for all students.

Mr. Gonzalez introduced the idea of joining a group of schools to reach out to the district regarding the tax referendum funding from the first 3 years of the program when charter schools were not provided the funding. The Board agreed to meet with the Arnold Law Firm to gather more information.

Mr. Gonzalez provided an update on the relationship between Beacon and Success Academy. Mr. Gonzalez visited the company in New York. The visit entailed a school site visit, a meeting with school's admin team, and a visit at the CMO's admin office with meetings with many executives. The visit clarified the specifics of the possible collaboration where Success will support 3rd grade team at Beacon by operating this grade level in the very same manor that they operate their 3rd grade (curriculum, schedule, teacher development and support, admin development and support). The Board agreed that learning from a highly reputable group would be wonderful, but expressed concern over the sustainability of this program as well as the impact on the rest of the school's culture. A follow up meeting between the two was requested and approved by the Board.

Title 1: Mr. Gonzalez presented the newest Title 1 Budget. He presented that these funds will be utilized in the same manner of the previously provided budgets; the hiring of supplemental staff such as paraprofessionals, coaches, a counselor, and a community involvement specialist). The Board approved unanimously.



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Finances: Mr. Verdeja presented the Financial Statements for the recent quarters. He showed that the operating budget is stabilized and that, with the proper funding, the school will be operating at balanced monthly budget. With the correction of the school's contract all revenue sources (Title 1, FEFP, Capital Outlay, etc) will now provide the funding to operate the school with a slight surplus. In addition, large amounts of ESSER reimbursements have been received over the last few months so the school is fiscally healthy at the moment.

Mr. Gonzalez presented the increases in teacher salaries that aligned to the tax referendum funds received. As voted on by the Board in a prior meeting, Beacon has aligned its salary increases with the District's plan. In addition Beacon has renewed its health benefits program and has made some changes that will increase expenses due to increasing the coverages provided to employees.

The line of credit with Building Hope that was used in the earliest part of the school year has been paid back in full. This line was necessary due to the underfunding provided to the school as the transition in contracts was underway.

Mr. Moreno updated the Board on the refinance opportunity with EFF. Beacon is meeting, regularly, with EFF to provide them with any information they are requesting as they try to determine if they will approve a refinance. The main concerns presented by EFF are the schools historical such as academic performance, teacher and student retentions, and enrollment declines. Beacon has provided its projected numbers for the future and have submitted various forms of evidence. The goal is to refinance before the end of the summer.

Meeting Adjourned @ 1:15 pm



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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: 
Jeffrey Miller, Board Chairman

Date: March 19, 2024