



Revolution Academy
Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2023
3800 Oak Ridge Rd.
Summerfield, NC 27358

1. Call to Order – J Nosek called the meeting to order at 18:34.
Board members present: J Nosek, L Walker, E Graziano, Y Robinson, D Crockett joined later
Staff members present in person: M Harris, J Gauden, R Helms, E Chicka
Parents present in person: H Shuster (Board Facilities committee member), P Timmerman (Board Finance committee member), C Steelman
2. Reading of the Mission Statement – J Nosek read the Revolution Academy Mission Statement.
3. *Approval of minutes 12.8.22* -*

A motion was made by Y Robinson and seconded by L Walker to approve the minutes from 12.8.22. The motion carried (4 – 0).

4. Public Comment – There was none

A motion was made by L Walker and seconded by E Graziano to close public comment. The motion carried (4 – 0).

D Crocket arrived.

5. Refinance discussion – Truist – J Nosek said that we can refinance in March or later. He introduced the Truist bankers for their presentation. Ford Bowers and Kaydee Hoard of the Friendly Center Truist
 - a. Kaydee specialized in charter schools and public finance
 - b. Truist would help create our presentation to shop the bond. Investors look for:
 - i. Cash on hand
 - ii. Academics
 - iii. Internal progress reports
 - iv. Leadership bios
 - c. Truist recommends negotiating with our current bond holders to lower the days cash on hand requirement from 90 then 120 (standard is 45 - 60). J Nosek explained that we are on track to have the 90, and the refi should take place this year so we don't have to worry about the 120.
 - d. Kaydee recommends getting all documents ready and wait for the interest rates to drop. Then do the refi. She will keep us informed of the rates.
 - e. Page 14 of her presentation shows the refi including money for a debt service reserve fund. It would be invested and proceeds used towards our monthly payment.

6. Principal's Report – M Harris presented the Principal's Report. The topics included operations, instruction, marketing, and a safety grant update. The report is in the Board drive.
7. PTO update – D Chapman, PTO president, provided a document for the PTO report. It is in the Board drive.
8. Board Committee Updates –
 - a. Finance –L Walker and R Helms presented a summary of the finance meeting earlier in the week. We are on track. The report is in the Board drive.
 - b. Governance – Mr. Nosek – needs to set up a meeting
 - i. Discussion of procedures for discipline events – needs a clear process
 - ii. *Discussion and approval of amended Revolution Academy bylaws to reflect ex-officio board members** - L Walker said that we need to have the necessary documents in the proper order to send to the Office of Charter Schools. The Board came up with the proper wording, and M Harris typed it in the by-laws (summary: The Board of Directors shall be at least 5 and not more than 7 active voting members and up to 3 non-voting ex-officio members).

A motion was made by L Walker and seconded by Y Robinson to amend the Board by-laws with the new language. The motion carried (5 – 0). (L Walker will update in EpiCenter and send to OCS).

- iii. *Discussion and approval of Board training/retreat dates** - D Crockett discussed meeting with Tom Miller about the Board training. Mr. Miller can help the Board learn how to oversee vs. stepping in daily operation of the school and discover the role of the Board. In a 3-1/2 hour training session on an afternoon before a Board meeting that same night. The Board agreed on April 20. The Board will discuss Tom Miller's support packages next month.
 - c. Academic – D Crockett and J Gaulden met this week. They discuss ways to promote our curriculum online to parents. Looking at leadership models for 8th graders (Covey, Maxwell, Elmore)
 - d. Facilities –
 - i. Update on fences and gates – M Harris reported that the fences will be installed mid-February after the pond areas get mowed. The gates are actually arms that can be operated from inside the school building. The quote came in lower than expected, and it will be paid for out of the safety grant.
 - ii. Playground update and discussion – M Harris said that there will be \$30,000 left in the safety grant that can be used towards the playground surface. L Walker spoke with J Brewer and wanted to make this point – moving the playground became much more involved than originally thought, which was part of the holdup. He agreed to install the ninja course where originally planned. H Shuster presented her findings – the playground company is willing to itemize – so if we take out the mulch and installation we could get some money back, although there may be a warehousing fee. She has a quote from Churchich for \$101,000 for the installation and grading. She is waiting on

another quote from On Target. Nosek said once received, he can call a special Board meeting to get a vote to move forward with installation.

9. Operations

- a. SIT and SIP update – M Harris presented a committee list of staff members, including those on the School Improvement Team. She also presented the goals for academics (test scores) and discipline. L Walker asked about the renewal process and how much will the state take into account the learning loss from COVID. Y Robinson has sat in on several charter boards – she sees that the state is OK as long as progress is being made.
- b. *Discussion and approval of bus transportation for 2023 – 2024 school year** - M Harris told how the new bus company operates with other schools. They contract with the parents. It is in our charter to provide bus service for Free & Reduced students.

A motion was made by L Walker and seconded by D Crockett to provide and subsidize bus service for Free and Reduced students and allow other parents to contract directly with the bus company. The motion carried (5 – 0).

- c. *Discussion and approval of two additional staff members for the 2023-2024 school year** - M Harris said we need another PE teacher as well as a Kindergarten TA. We can add these positions and still stay under 50% for personnel to revenue costs.

A motion was made by J Nosek and seconded by Y Robinson to allow for the hiring of an additional PE teacher as well as a kindergarten TA for 2023-2024. The motion carried (5 – 0).

- d. *Discussion and approval of The Oaks Center – The Wellness model** - E Chicka explained how depression and other mental health issues have increased significantly. We can utilize The Oaks Center to be proactive – teaching life skills. The program we would like includes staff development, a parent night, student sessions for 30 minutes for 12 weeks, another staff ½ day training, opportunities for afternoon small groups, and opportunities for parents to contract with the company and use our space. The cost is approximately \$20,000 and covered by the safety grant.

A motion was made by E Graziano and seconded by D Crockett to approve The Oaks Center quote and program. The motion carried (5 – 0).

- e. Discussion and approval RA's Board to have electronic meetings – J Nosek asked our attorney about having electronic meetings and voting via email. He said our by-laws would need to be amended, but also Revolution Academy is still required to have open meetings. So this is probably not feasible. So the vote on this agenda item and the next are not necessary.
- f. RA's Board to have the ability to vote electronically at electronic meetings - not necessary.

10. Closed Session

A motion was made by J Nosek and seconded by D Crockett to go into closed session at 20:11. The motion carried (5 – 0).

A motion was made by J Nosek and seconded by D Crockett to come out of closed session at 20:51. The motion carried (5 – 0).

11. *Discussion and approval of closed session minutes from 12.8.22**

A motion was made by J Nosek and seconded by E Graziano to approve the closed session minutes from 12.8.22. The motion carried (5 – 0).

12. Personnel – *Discussion and approval of Enrichment teacher**

A motion was made by L Walker and seconded by J Nosek to approve the new Enrichment teacher discussed in closed session. The motion carried (5 – 0).

13. Adjourn*

A motion was made by E Graziano and seconded by D Crockett to adjourn at 20:54. The motion carried (5 – 0).

**Requires Board action*