



MEMPHIS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date and Time

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 3:30 PM CST

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			3:30 PM
A. Record Attendance and Guests		Artunyala Hunter	
B. Call the Meeting to Order	Discuss	Steve Bares	
5 m			
C. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Steve Bares	3 m
Approve minutes for MASE Board of Directors Meeting On August 20, 2019			
II. MASE Board Chair Update			
3:38 PM			
A. Update from Dr. Steve Bares	Discuss	Steve Bares	
5 m			
III. Executive Director School Operation Update			
3:43 PM			
A. On Campus	Discuss	Rodrick Gaston	
10 m			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment • Staff • Progress of 2019-20 Goals • Highlights 			
B. Review of Academic Data	Discuss	Rodrick Gaston	
15 m			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Quarter Benchmarks • ACT Update 			



Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

Minutes August 20, 2019

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering for the 2019-20 school term was held on August 20, 2019 at 3:30 pm at the office of Memphis Bioworks Foundation, 20 South Dudley Street, Suite 900, Memphis, TN 38103.

Present: The following directors were present in person: Steve Bares (Chairman), Darryl Jackson, Nathaniel Spates, Susan Huffman, Sondra Howell, and Marc Taylor. Also in attendance were Brandon Wellford (MASE CFO), Rodrick Gaston (MASE Executive Director), guests David Hill from Davidson Consulting, newcomer Holly Coleman from Hyde Foundation, and Artunyala Hunter (MASE HR Admin Assistant-recording).

Directors Absent

Daniel Copp, Gary Lynch and Jessica Becker

Call to order:

At 3:32 pm, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Bares and a quorum was present.

Dr. Bares made a motion to approve minutes from the MASE Board of Directors meeting held on February 26, 2019, seconded by Nate Spates and All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened covering last school term's ending progress and his plans for this school year 2019-20. He expounded on methods to raise the bar. Final results for last year's data wouldn't be available after October 2019's testing. The 2018-19 school year ended with 595 students, which was above budget. Computer Science with a Code Crew was added for this year's 2019-20 term. Although 610 students were registered, the campus's current enrollment number was 585. The goal is targeted towards 625. An additional six new teachers joined the MASE Team, which fully staffed the campus except Geometry. We're utilizing retired math specialist Carl Johnson until such time that position is filled.

2019-20 Goals

Implement New School Academy Strategy; Executive 6th Grade Academy; Continue exploring endeavors to enhance STEM curriculum; 98% graduation rate; Improve teacher support by departmentalizing instructional coaches; Improve student attendance to at least 90%; Maintain 4.0 Operational Scorecard; and Expend million dollar scholarship club to \$10 million plus.

Highlights

We started the Naval ROTC Program, which makes us the only Charter School in the City with this program. The eighth (8th) graders have a parallel program along with starting them to begin taking the ACT Test. All our high school students are taking ACT Prep courses, which should definitely increase our scores. The Freshman Pilot with Stand for Children will be on track to see difference in scores.

A decision was made against partnering with Southern Avenue. Instead, he was pleased to announce the opening of the Sixth Grade Academy. Mr. Gaston included a rationale for the Sixth Grade Academy handout, which was needed because in past years, we'd inherited so many sixth graders academically far behind. The sixth grader's transition from elementary/grade school to middle school has proven to be very trying. Therefore, we implemented the academy for a structural change to give them special attention. By housing them separately in the Mississippi Blvd Church building, the sixth graders should be able to concentrate on their educational studies while feeling safe and avoiding possible bullying and harassment by upper classmen. The separation will also give them an additional year to mature before they're exposed to their older classmates. Special emphasis will be placed on the academic growth rate as measured by state tests (particularly in math and ELA), the retention rate of sixth graders transitioning to seventh grade at MASE and an increase in daily non-academic interactions with faculty and staff members. The metrics in place will assist in determining the success of the establishment of the Sixth Grade Academy.

Improvements

Although our scores remained the same, we increased 3 levels in 2019 School Wide TVAAS Levels. So we're focusing on both State scores as well as ACT scores. More AP was added. Most areas grew in 2019 High School Math City Wide Comparison.

Raising the Bar - Academic Press & Student Care

The bar has been raised for educational quality in order to close this gap between talent and skill. This will allow students to maximize their talents while living lives filled with opportunity. In order accomplish raising the bar, MASE is providing students increased academic press within the context of increased student care. By elevating our student's care, we increase their motivation. The goal is to

ensure every student is involved in at least one activity/group. We will one of the first charter schools to track data for student care.

Budget discussion:

Brandon Wellford discussed budget items.

Voted:

The Board voted and welcomed Holly Coleman as its newest Board Member.

Adjourn:

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Steven J. Bares, Chairman



Greetings Board Members,

The 2019-20 school year is almost half way over. As we approach the end of the first semester we are continuing to prosper and strive. Our school has reached historic heights. The faculty and staff have been motivated and eager to remain consistent on accomplishing our goals this year. I anticipate the same enthusiasm in the second semester. MASE's initiative is to "Raise the BAR" regarding our expectations for student achievement. Raising the BAR encompasses sharing common beliefs, having an "All-in" spirit, and being resilient in our daily practices. We must believe that all children deserve the right to an excellent education. This year, we are raising the bar in "Academic Press" and "Student Care." We have implemented a research-based, strategic plan to increase staff-student engagement and student achievement. We will also continue to focus on Common Core standards, the use of data to drive instruction, creating a culture of care, and providing consistent implementation of the curriculum in a rigorous manner.

In terms of academics, we have our first quarter benchmark data from Mastery Connect. The data does not show anything that we did not expect. The administration team is confident that we are on track to meet our assessment goals. The purpose of benchmark assessments is to identify where students are with respect to mastery of Tennessee State Standards. The goal of benchmarking is to identify students' academic strengths and weaknesses and use that information to guide future instruction, and support success on later summative and high-stakes tests. Benchmark assessments will cover all the standards that will be taught for the year. We understand that all the standards have not been taught. The benchmark is purely for gauging how well our students will do on the end of the year assessments.

We are currently fully staffed with highly qualified teachers. Our enrollment is at 585 students, we are slightly off from our budgeted prediction of 600 students. The reasoning behind this slight decrease is that we changed some of our recruiting strategies to make sure we had more proficient students accepted in our 6th grade cohort. This also reduced the number of students in that grade compared to the previous year about 25 students less. This demonstrates the tradeoff of class size versus academic diversity, that we hope to see in the proficiency rates increasing on the 2020 TN Ready test.

At our board meeting, I would like to review the following:

- Progress of 2019-20 goals
- Review of academic data (Quarter 1)
- 2018-19 Annual Report
- ACT Data
- Expanding STEM in Motion (TCAT Aircraft Mechanic Program)
- Marketing our success (Website makeover and Strategic Plan)

Please take time to browse the attached documents. I am looking forward to sharing the material at our board meeting. Thanks for your support.

Rodrick Gaston

Executive Director, MASE Charter