



Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

Minutes

November 19, 2019

The second meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering for the 2019-20 school term was held on November 19, 2019 at 3:30 pm at the offices of Memphis Bioworks Foundation, 20 South Dudley Street, Suite 900, Memphis, TN 38103.

Present: The following directors were present in person: Steve Bares (Chairman), Nathaniel Spates, Holly Coleman, and Marc Taylor; via remote conference were Jessica Becker and Susan Huffman. Rodrick Gaston, Brandon Wellford, Artunyala Hunter (MASE HR Admin Assistant-recording) and Leigh Ann Barnett were also present.

Directors Absent

Daniel Copp, Gary Lynch, Darryl Jackson and Sondra Howell

Call to order:

At 3:38 pm, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Bares to form a quorum.

Enrollment & Staff

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened with record attendance. Although budgeted for 600, current enrollment is 585. He expressed hopes of enrollment increasing before end of school term. The key staff additions of Middle School Director D. Briggs and Operations Directors T. Watson, along with the promotion of E. Louis to High School Director has already proven to be a success with both students and staff moving in the right direction. We're currently fully staffed.

Dr. Bares made a motion to approve minutes from the MASE Board of Directors meeting held on August 20, 2019, seconded by Holly Coleman and All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

Progress of 2019-20 Goals

The 6th Grade academy is progressing accordingly and has already shown positive results of their total focusing without distractions and upperclassmen behavior influence. We now have a better quality of incoming 6th graders resulting from change in recruitment strategy. They are now more overt and more participatory in the classroom this year. Lunch is now being served at the academy of opposed to them transporting to main building with cafeteria. We'll have more actual data results at the completion of first school term to present at next meeting.

Looking to expand STEM curriculum by partnering with TCAT Aircraft Mechanic Program. Guests attendees Audra Block (STEM Director of MASE) and TCAT Aircraft Mechanic Program Director Ricky Batts discussed the positive outcome of connecting our 11th & 12th graders with the program. The program would definitely put our students in a quicker skilled "ready to work" position after high school graduation. The impressive salary would also afford them financial stability as young adults, which projects great futures. Code Crew still flowing in positive direction. Ninth grade Help Team aided in this year's better 1st quarter report cards in comparison to last year's grades.

Highlights

ACT scores revealed eighth (8th) graders are scoring high, which met and exceeded the expectations of early testing. We are still striving to increase our overall ACT scores at least by half. On November 4, 2019, some of our scholars competed in The Knowledge Bowl against Munford and did very well. That broadcast is set to air on December 14, 2019. We are remaining on track with all our high school students taking ACT Prep courses to increase our scores.

The elevation of Student Care has already proven positive. With all staff on board, the students are receiving the warmth exemplified, which has motivated them to desire to participate in at least one school activity or group. Student Care has also helped students explore all of their potential and revealed some of their hidden talents.

Budget discussion:

The financial reports were included in the material hand-outs. Brandon Wellford discussed budget items. We're catching up to actual enrollment count. However, we're a little short on revenue because of loss of 15 students.

Dr. Bares stressed the importance of all board members completing required Charter School Board Training for compliance.

Adjourn:

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Steven J. Bares, Chairman