Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

Minutes
February 26, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering was held on February 26, 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), Tiffany Jones, Darryl Jackson, Susan Huffman, Gary Lynch, Jessica Becker, Marc Taylor, Nathaniel Spates and Jessica Becker via telephone conference. Also in attendance were Brandon Wellford (MASE CFO), Rodrick Gaston (MASE Executive Director), and Artunyala Hunter (MASE HR Admin Assistant-recording).

Directors Absent
Daniel Copp and Sondra Howell

Call to order:
At 3:33 pm, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Bares and a quorum was present.

Susan Huffman made a motion to approve minutes from the MASE Board of Directors meeting held on November 13, 2018. Susan Huffman seconded the motion. All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened emphasizing on the campus and enrollment. He stated the current enrollment number was 603, which included the withdrawal of 42 students. He also elaborated on the some withdrawal reasons. An Attendance Specialist was assigned to manage truancy and tardiness. The school had begun giving incentives for perfect attendance. We were then still working on reducing the number of students that checked out early.
**Highlights**

Six (6) scholars were taken to Nashville to compete in Science Bowl for Charter Schools. The Annual Black History Program was a success. Also, the Crawfish Boil hosted on April 13th was a huge success. Mr. Gaston walked thru goals of where we were. It was discussed and agreed to discontinue the Board on Track software program.

MASE was pretty much ahead with Smith & Nephew, Moore Tech and Lebonheur. The State passed a Biotech curriculum in high school. We will need to determine how we will adopt. This will parallel with what we’re already doing.

During SCS Leader School, we were highlighted in English II & Biology. Thanks to the Huffmans for their donations. We were encouraging tenth (10th) graders to take ACT exam early as possible exam and we would reimburse the parents. We were on target with 98% graduation rate. Brandon Wellford explained the attendance rate.

Per Mr. Gaston, we could meet 2pts up on ACT because we’d invested in an ACT Specialist that school year term. Thus far, scores looked promising. ACT Specialist is motivating scholars from the bottom. Therefore, we looked forward to April to measure the Juniors. We’re trying to grab data on average, range & below 16 scores. Science will test but it will not count. We’ve rocked in Science and meeting standards. 2018 school summary/ overall school performance, we’re doing fine with 4.1 & 4.5

**Mr. Gaston concerns:**

Middle school math (6th graders) ELA – We should see a jump/increase. He addressed underperforming Teachers. Everything was on track and shouldn’t be any surprises this year.

Some of our instructional Teachers to benchmark by reaching out to other top performing Charter Schools. Perhaps aim higher.

SPED will have intervention class everyday. Explored adding SPED Teachers per each Grade, but currently we didn’t have funding to support. This would definitely decrease their performance. Mr. Gaston prefers not to separate SPED Teachers by grade or by middle vs high school. Tiffany Jones’ concern was ensuring we’re in compliance. Mr. Gaston ensured our compliance, considering we are at the bottom. But yes there’s room for improvement.

As we entered this current school year, we needed to develop & discuss how we will screen new comers and incoming sixth (6) graders.

**How are we doing:**

Smith & Nephew is good system in place. Considered taking another look at graduates by offering internships. Company happy with program. Clearer matrix and are we completing and are we matching progress / students.

**What can we do differently:**

Because we had about 100 influx of students, we should implement a better screening process. Perhaps look in PowerSchool disciplines and ask for the student applicant’s last two (2) years
records instead of last year. We could also do “formal” interviews. It was noted that some of the school’s behavior issues came from incoming new students.

Dr. Bares asked for a motion that if after two weeks for reviewing the evaluation rubric, that if no board member has emailed with changes or additions then it will stand that we all agree to continue forward with the presented rubric. Upon duly made and seconded, this motion was approved.

**Budget discussion:**
Brandon Wellford discussed budget items.

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

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Steven J. Bares, Chairman