

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE THOMAS A. EDISON CHARTER SCHOOL OF WILMINGTON, INC.**

**January 23, 2017**

**THOMAS A. EDISON CHARTER SCHOOL**

**WILMINGTON, DELAWARE**

Upon notice to all directors and posting of public notice, a meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Thomas A. Edison Charter School of Wilmington, Inc. (the “School”) was held on January 23, 2017.

| <b>Directors</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Hal Blocksom     | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Emile Brown      |                | <b>X</b>      |
| Mikkel Christie  | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Rev. Moore       | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Gwendel Robinson |                | <b>X</b>      |
| Ron Pinkett      | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Wayne Cooper     | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Vera Holmes      | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Jerry Velazquez  | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Nicole Huffner   | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Joseph Till      | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Valarie Waters   |                | <b>X</b>      |

**THERE WAS A QUORUM OF THE BOARD**

**The following people were also present:**

- 1. Principal Salome Thomas-EL**
- 2. Liz Yates**
- 3. Patricia Winder**
- 4. Meghan Johnson**

5. **Nate Durant**
6. **Ankur Arya**
7. **Candace Charles-Inniss**
8. **Ryan Davis**
9. **Megan Brown**

**Mr. Pinkett called for a motion to call the Public Session to order at 7:10 p.m. The motion was made and seconded, motion was approved by all and the Board went into Public Session.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Pinkett called for a motion to accept the November 2016 minutes. The motion was made by Ms. Holmes and seconded by Mr. Christie. The motion was approved by all and carried.

### **Public Comments**

#### **Parent/Teacher Comments**

#### **General Public Comments**

#### **School Report by Principal EL**

Principal EL reported Saturday Academy began on January 14<sup>th</sup> with a great turnout. The focus is on basic skills with advanced students receiving advanced instruction.

A bomb threat tabletop exercise facilitated with Delaware Department of Homeland Security was held. A lockdown heightened alert drill was held on January 6.

Melodee Walker, from the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the Delaware Early Literacy Initiative (DELI) met with K-3 teams to discuss strategies for improving K-3 literacy program and closing the achievement gap in special education.

Basketball Season is underway, the boys team remains undefeated.

Vision to Learn Mobile Eye clinic visited on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Progress reports for 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester will be distributed by January 25<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades 4-8 will attend the movie "Hidden Figures" on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Approximately 15 students have been accepted into private schools with 3 confirmed scholarships.

Three quotes for replacing the fire alarm panel and equipment have been received. Delmar Doors repaired the door frame by the gym, as well as other doors throughout the school. Jesse and Cordell (BRAVO) repaired the damaged floor in the hallway by the main office and library.

Mr. Pinkett called for a motion to accept the School Report. A motion was made by Mr. Blocksom and seconded by Mr. Cooper. The motion was approved by all and carried.

### **School Financials** by P. Winder

Ms. Winder reported the November financials need to be posted and all local funds are in.

She stated that the final portion of Federal Funds have been received as well as funds from Christiana School District. The funds as a result of the lawsuit in the amount of \$78,000 are restricted and can only be spent in the following 4 areas:

1. Phase in of full-day kindergarten
2. Expansion services for gifted and talented
3. Expansion of alternative programs
4. Technology replacement

Mr. Pinkett called for a motion to accept the School Financial Report. A motion was made by Rev. Moore and seconded by Mr. Blocksom. The motion was approved by all and carried.

### **Finance Committee Report** by M. Christie

Mr. Christie presented the Board Financials through year end 2016. He stated the Holiday party which was just over \$3,000 was not included in the report..

Mr. Pinkett called for a motion to accept the Finance Committee Report. A motion was made by Rev. Moore and seconded by Mr. Velazquez. The motion was approved by all and carried.

Mr. Christie discussed future fund raising efforts and would like to have a meeting with Board and staff members to talk about roles and responsibilities. He will email the Board to check availability.

Mr. Pinkett called for a motion to accept the Fund Raising Report. A motion was made by Ms. Holmes and seconded by Mr. Cooper. The motion was approved by all and carried.

### **Curriculum Report** by W. Cooper

Mr. Cooper reported he has been visiting classrooms and there are important school events that the Board is encouraged to support.

February 24: Black History Showcase from 2:00 to 3:15. The Arthur J Turner Spelling Bee will be held from 5:00 to 9:00. TECS has a team that has qualified.

March 23: 4<sup>th</sup> grade Multiplication Bee

April 28: K-8 TECS Leadership Day. Board support is needed in three areas, 1. Identifying and inviting members of the community. 2. Financial donations for food, keynote speaker, T-shirts and chair rental. 3. Press coverage. Principal EL will report back to the Board with the budget.

Mr. Cooper will research the Ferguson Award that offered scholarships to 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 10<sup>th</sup> graders to see if it still applies and if Edison students qualify.

Mr. Pinkett called for a motion to accept the Curriculum Committee Report. A motion was made by Ms. Holmes and seconded by Rev. Moore. The motion was approved by all and carried.

**Personnel Committee Report** by Rev. Moore

Rev. Moore reported the Board Manual is being updated and will be complete by the next Board meeting.

Mr. Pinkett stated there is a document being circulated for Board members to review and update their information. He also stated that information on salaries has been received and hopefully will be presented at the next meeting.

**Operations Committee Report** by J. Velazquez

Mr. Velazquez asked Principal EL for the status on the ID system. Principal EL stated there was a phone conference and one of the units is being sent.

Mr. Velazquez asked whether the \$300,000 paid for pointing has improved leaks. Principal EL responded there are leaks but he doesn't know if it is associated with the roof work that was done on that side.

Mr. Velazquez also asked if the kindergarten roof pointing is the problem or the roof. Jessie (BRAVO) will contact Mr. Velazquez.

Mr. Velazquez stated he will notify the city to rectify the flooding he noticed on Thatcher Street.

Mr. Blocksom asked if the bald spots have been reseeded. Principal EL responded it has been reseeded.

Mr. Pinkett called for a motion to accept the Operations Committee Report. A motion was made by Rev. Moore and seconded by Mr. Cooper. The motion was approved by all and carried.

**Executive Committee** by R. Pinkett

Mr. Pinkett reported the playground will be installed once the Brownfields are complete.

**Open Discussion**

There was discussion regarding the allocation of State funds. On behalf of teachers, Mr. Till asked if a decision has been made.

Mr. Pinkett stated that the numbers have been received and hopefully a presentation will be made at the next Board meeting. Mr. Velazquez asked if the money had been disbursed by the State. Principal EL stated monies were received in July but not approved until October. Mr. Velazquez questioned why it was not evident that the funds were there. Mr. Durant stated teachers were aware that the funds were there and that is why they reached out to the Board. Rev. Moore asked that the Board move as expeditiously as possible to resolve this before the next meeting. Mr. Velazquez stated the Board owes teachers an expeditious response and that he is embarrassed to say that he as a Board member did not know the funds had been received. Mr. Blocksom stated the Board will do something about it. Mr. Pinkett stated the pay ranges have been on the radar and even though not funded like districts they are looking to get closer to the districts and a presentation will be made next month to address salaries long term and prior to the next meeting Administration will be notified regarding 1.5%. Mr. Cooper asked what can be done tonight in terms of ensuring the 1.5% is resolved prior to the next meeting for instance set a date for the meeting. Mr. Christie stated there would be a follow-up prior to the next Board meeting. Rev. Moore stated it should happen as soon as possible because teachers did not receive information by the end of December. Mr. Pinkett stated there will be a presentation at the next meeting taking into account the long term interest.

Mr. Pinkett called for a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:45 p.m. The motion was made by Rev. Moore and seconded by Mr. Cooper. The motion was approved by all and carried.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**2/20/2017**