

**WALTON ACADEMY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Walton Academy Charter School/Meeting also accessible via Zoom
389 Dorsey Avenue
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

I. Call to Order, Review of Public Notice, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Neale at 10:03am. Board members present were Robert Neale and Edward Graham. Guests present included: Marie Laurino, Shekima Fields, Ray Sansom, Dr. Bill Rader, Dr. Allison Schnell, Kara Griffin, Elizabeth Daters and Jessica Yopp.

II. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve Agenda as written. Mr. Neale seconded. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes

The last meeting's minutes from December 8, 2022 were approved on a motion by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Neale. Motion passed.

IV. Public Comments by Pre-Registered guests, if any

No guests were present.

V. Reports

A. Walton Academy Director's Report & Title I Update – Ms. Laurino provided the Director's report for Walton Academy. 25 students are graduating this spring. Graduation is scheduled for May 19th at 5pm at the DeFuniak Springs Community Center. 734 courses have been completed through Edgenuity for grades 6-12. She stated Walton Academy has 45 students participating in one or more community outreach projects.

B. Walton DJJ Director's Report & Title I Update – Ms. Fields provided the Director's report for Walton Academy DJJ. There are currently 42 youth at the facility and 36 of those youth are students, putting them at max capacity. There are 10 GED graduates and 2 high school graduates this spring. Students are in the process of taking the SAT. Ms. Fields stated she is hopeful to have more graduates by the end of the year. 13 students are on track to receive their GED. Ms. Fields was happy to report that per the DJJ, Walton Learning Center has the second highest graduation rate in Florida at 87%.

C. Management Report – Mr. Sansom complimented both directors on their outstanding job this school year as it has gone extremely well and smooth. Mr. Neale inquired about the handling of the SRO incident and Mr. Sansom stated the school has been

very cooperative, and that the investigation is under the jurisdiction of the sheriff's department.

VI. Discussion & Action Items

- A. Walton DJJ Contract Negotiation Update – Mr. Sansom stated that he is currently in negotiations with the school district and hopes to have a final number for the 23-24 budget in the next week or two.

Sunbiz Annual Report – Dr. Schnell presented the Sunbiz annual report which The Rader Group files every year on behalf of Walton Academy. This form is filed every year in order to maintain an active status with the Department of State. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Sunbiz annual report, Mr. Neale seconded. Motion passed.

B.

Human Resources

- A. Walton Academy Personnel Recommendations – The personnel report for Walton Academy was presented by Ms. Daters. Walton Academy has 20 current employees, two of which are new hires. There is one open position and there have been two resignations. Mr. Neale made a motion to approve the personnel report, Mr. Graham seconded. Motion passed.
- B. Walton DJJ Personnel Recommendation - The personnel report for Walton Academy DJJ was presented by Ms. Daters. Walton Academy DJJ has seven current employees. Mr. Neale made a motion to approve the personnel report, Mr. Graham seconded. Motion passed.
- C. 2022-2023 Updated Salary Schedule – Ms. Daters presented the updated 2022-2023 salary schedule which brings the new starting salary to \$47,422.89. Mr. Neale made a motion to approve the updated salary schedule, Mr. Graham seconded. Motion passed.

Financials

- A. Auditor Selection – Ms. Griffin presented a letter from our most recent auditor, McDonough CPA Solutions, stating that they are no longer providing audit services. Ms. Griffin stated that several RFPs were sent to potential auditors to audit the 2022-2023 school year. Of the five RFPs sent, 3 formal proposals were received. After extensive review, Ms. Griffin recommended choosing Moss, Krusick & Associates, LLC for the 2022-2023 audit. Ms. Griffin stated they have 25 years of experience and have worked with several nonprofits and charter schools in the area. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the audit selection, Mr. Neale seconded. Motion passed.
- B. Walton Academy Financial Reports – Ms. Griffin presented the Walton Academy financial report. She stated that Walton Academy has total assets of \$1,055,120.50. Current expenses are at 70% which puts Walton Academy right on track with expenses. The revenue is higher than anticipated due to an increase in FTE. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the financials, Mr. Neale seconded. Motion passed.

- C. Walton DJJ Financial Reports – Ms. Griffin presented the Walton Academy DJJ financial report. Current assets are at \$93,230.11 and expenses are at 71%. The financials are looking strong due to the increased contract budget.
- D. Tax Return 990 – Ms. Griffin stated taxes were filed for Walton Academy for tax year beginning 7/1/2021. Graham made a motion to approve the tax return, Mr. Neale seconded. Motion passed.

General

- A. Board Membership – Dr. Schnell asked the board to keep in mind any new potential board members.
- B. Next Board Meeting – The next board meeting has not been determined, it's likely to be in late May or early June.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10.31am by a motion from Mr. Neale, seconded by Mr. Graham.