

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

Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021
Time: 10:00am
Location: Zoom Online Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Swanson at 10:03am. Board members present were: Jessica Swanson and Wayne Graham. Guests present included: David Schmidt, Dr. Bill Rader, Ray Sansom, Dr. Allison Schnell, Andrea James, Elizabeth Daters, and Kara Griffin.

II. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Graham motioned to approve the Agenda as written. Ms. Swanson seconded. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2020.

The last meeting's minutes from October 22, 2020 were approved on a motion by Mr. Graham, seconded by Ms. Swanson. Motion passed.

IV. Reports

Director Report- Mr. Schmidt reported that COVID-19 has been a challenge, but the safety measures at the school have helped keep everyone healthy and in school. Mr. Schmidt commented that he has a strong team who have worked together well through everything. The school currently has 235 students enrolled, with more coming each day. As students find out about our unique online program they are enrolling. Mr. Schmidt would like to see the online program stick around in the future, as distance learning is really working for students. 46% of students are still on distance learning. Some are returning, but those who are staying online are doing well and find that the flexibility of the program really works for their goals. The SAT has been given on campus, which is great for the students who may not otherwise have access to a testing site.

Ms. Fields at Walton Learning Center reports that she and her staff have worked through the challenges of COVID-19 within the facility. It is different since the students reside at the facility. 12 students are very close to obtaining their GEDs and more are working towards high school diplomas.

Management Report- Dr. Rader reports he is impressed with Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Fields and how they have succeeded with educating students through the pandemic. Virtual learning is a priority to continue as an option even beyond the pandemic. Dr. Rader and the team are exploring options to continue the virtual learning option.

V. Action Items

- A. Personnel Report- Ms. Daters reports that Walton Academy currently has 18 employees and Walton Learning Center currently has 7. There were no questions from the board about the Personnel report. A motion was made by Ms. Swanson, seconded by Mr. Graham to approve the Personnel report. Motion passed.
- B. Financial Reports presented by Ms. James for Walton Academy and Walton Learning Center.
 - i. Financial Reports– Ms. James reported that the financials for Walton Academy and Walton Learning Center look great. She presented the budget to actuals along with the monthly financial reports which are sent to the Walton County School District each month. The PPP loan, received last spring will move to the revenue section of the budget once the forgiveness is approved. It is expected that Walton Academy will receive 100% forgiveness of the PPP loan. The schools’ financial reports were approved on a motion by Ms. Swanson, seconded by Mr. Graham. Motion passed.
 - ii. Teacher Salary Increase Allocation- Ms. James reported that Walton Academy was given \$24,865 for teacher raises per the State of Florida to be used to bring the minimum teacher salary up. Teachers began receiving the new salaries in February 2021 and also received retro pay to the beginning of the school year. A motion to approve the final Teacher Salary Increase Allocation was made by Ms. Swanson, seconded by Mr. Graham. Motion passed.
 - iii. Updated 2020-2021 Salary Schedule. Ms. James reported that the teacher salary schedule has been updated to reflect the new salaries. There were no questions from the board. Ms. Swanson made a motion to approve the updated salary schedule. Mr. Graham seconded. Motion passed.
 - iv. The Paycheck Protection Program loan was discussed by Dr. Rader. Walton Academy received a PPP loan last spring and the funds were spent exclusively on salaries for faculty and staff. We expect 100% forgiveness of the loan as soon as the forgiveness portals are opened with the lending bank. Ms. Swanson made a motion to grant permission to apply for loan forgiveness, Mr. Graham seconded. Motion passed.

VI. Board Member Matters

- i. There will be another board meeting in May. The meeting will be conducted online through Zoom. The next board meeting has been set for Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 10am.
- ii. A discussion of adding additional board members to the board commenced. If anyone is interested in joining the board, please send resumes to Dr. Allison Schnell aschnell@rader-inc.com.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by a motion by Ms. Swanson, seconded by Mr. Graham at 10:45am.