

**WALTON ACADEMY, INC.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES**

Date: March 15, 2016
Time: 2:30 pm
Location: Walton Academy
389 Dorsey Avenue
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

- I. **Call to Order, Review of Public Notice, Roll Call**
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rachel Gillis at 2:23 pm. Board members Joel Paul, Brian Howard, Rhonda Skipper and Rachel Gillis were present. Guests in attendance were Dr. Rader, Ray Sansom, Steve Ruder, Marie Laurino, Randy Stafford and Amy Pupo. Ms. Gillis exited the meeting due to another commitment at 2:50. Mr. Paul was asked to chair the meeting in her absence.
- II. **Approval of Minutes, October 27, 2015**
The last meeting's minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Howard, 2nd by Mr. Paul.
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
The current meeting's draft agenda was approved on a motion by Ms. Skipper, 2nd by Mr. Howard.
- IV. **Public Comment for registered speaker, if any**
N/A
- V. **Academic Spotlight**
Mr. Ruder presented the information. He recognized Loren Rodgers, a first year teacher at the school. Ms. Rodgers is involved with the sound training program, which is piloting at Walton. The academy has out-performed the school district with respect to gains in student STAR assessment testing. According to Mr. Ruder, she has been a tremendous asset to the school. The program is under review for other schools in the future.
- VI. **Consent Items**
 - A. **Personnel Recommendations/Changes**
Personnel report was review and there are no recommendations or changes.
- VII. **Report and Discussion**
 - A. **Financial Reports**
Dr. Rader presented the financial documents.
 - a. **IRS Form 990**
The form 990 was included in the board packet, the board is required to get a copy of the annual tax filing that the CPA's prepare. Ms. Terri Roberts (CFO) checks the numbers to compare the audited financials and they matched and were reported as such.
 - b. **FY 15/16 Budget Update/Financial Report**
Dr. Rader spoke about the balance sheet as of Jan 31, 2016. He said the school is in good, but not great financial shape. We are at 170

FTE (last budget had FTE at 180) and therefore have lost some revenue, around \$6K. Our overall revenue is at \$84K and we need to ear-mark \$85K in the budget for the new building facility. Dr. Rader then spoke on Walton Learning Center's budget and the financials of the DJJ – there will be a profit of around \$54K. The facility is now fully staffed. Both schools are in decent financial shape, however, with Walton Academy, the FTE drop has been the biggest difference and may affect the ability to purchase a new building. Due to this change, the facility plans may be smaller than originally considered. The FTE window closed 2/11/16 so we will have to wait for the next count, we should be OK with new referrals coming into the school. The financials and budgets were approved on a motion by Mr. Howard, 2nd by Ms. Skipper.

B. Director's Report

Mr. Ruder presented his report, including the Student Growth Proficiency on the Reading gains in STAR testing, mainly due to the Sound Training program. The scores actually surpassed the district's for other schools. Mr. Stafford also helped spearhead this project and he agrees that the project has been successful. Our school is the pilot for the US, the program is actually UK-based. Mr. Stafford mentioned that Walton's teachers are a cohesive group and the students are "hungry to learn." Mr. Ruder then talked about how he's been using Facebook to market the school and it's showing promise. He also mentioned that a basketball team has been formed and students will participate in the Autism Walk in April. Graduation is planned for Friday, May 13th at 7pm and approximately 20 kids will graduate.

C. Management Report

Dr. Rader presented the management report, which included Walton's facility plans.

a. Update on new building/facility purchase

The plan for the new building includes capacity for 300 students, with 14 total classrooms and an administrative building for offices. The plan is to complete it in phases, four of them, over a span of four years. The cost is around \$1-\$1.2 million (does not include landscaping). There needs to be discussions around how we want the image of the campus to be presented, we need a unified direction. It will not be simple to purchase additional land in the future so we need to ensure the work is done well and not piecemeal. Dr. Rader is still working on the onsite plan and should have that completed within the next 60 days. There are some issues, including no retention pond and there's not room for it on campus, and we might not be able to get larger buildings to avoid having a pond. A few comments were mentioned regarding the new building is how desperately the students want one and the "heart is there" for one, however, we need to focus on getting the money to fund it. Ms. Laurino mentioned that we need to match our facility with our focus, that we need an inviting campus to attract more students. Dr. Rader stated that we need a minimum of 200 FTE to move forward.

b. Revision of school's By-Laws

Dr. Rader mentioned that the by-laws have been updated, using standard language. It had been around twenty years since these have been updated. The board member terms are noted in the document as well as the duties of members. It was also added that if a board

member misses two meetings, they may be removed from the board. Electronic means were also added (meetings with physical members Skyping in online to ensure a quorum). The by-laws updates and edits were approved on a motion by Mr. Howard and seconded by Ms. Skipper.

VIII. Other Action Items

A. Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Ms. Pupo (in Ms. Roberts' absence) mentioned that this item was approved by the board in 2010, however, there seems to be no record of it. This has been in place since 2010 but we need to have it approved again so we can post it on our website. A motion to approve the item was made by Ms. Skipper, seconded by Mr. Paul.

IX. Emergency Items

N/A

X. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Stafford took a few moments to speak additionally on the Sound Training program. From his perspective as a counselor, he thinks the success of the program shows tremendous achievement and takes a lot of motivation.

XI. Board Member Matters

N/A

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Paul adjourned the meeting at 3:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Pupo, Acting Recorder