Best Academy Board of Directors
August 22, 2017
6:45p.m. - 8:15p.m.
Harvest Network of Schools
1300 Olson Memorial Hwy, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Attendees: Ezra Hyland, Karen Kelley Ariwoola, Wendy Hines, Sharon Ross, David Greenberg, Meghan Roegee, Emily Peterson, Shana Ford, Eric Mahmoud, Stacey Beetham, Charles Vickers, Jihan Burdah-Smith, Anura Si-Asar

Call to order & Agenda Overview
The meeting was called to order by Ezra Hyland at 6:45p.m.

Consent Agenda Item
1. **Approval Item:** Approve July Meeting Minutes

DeAndra Knighten motioned to approve the July meeting minutes. Meghan Roeghee seconded the motioned and the meeting minutes were approved.

Enrollment Update
1. Approval: Enrollment & Retention
Ms. Ford presented the current enrollment and attendance report for Best Academy. We currently have 532 students in attendance as of today between Best Academy and Best East. There has been a laser focus on retention that has proven to be effective and the 25 Years Matters effort has been effective as well. Mr. Mahmoud said that some thought that the consolidation from Penn would cause a lost of scholars, but because of the connection with families, there was no significant loss experienced.

Finance Report

1. **Approval:** July Financials
Stacy presented the July Financials for Best Academy. There were not a lot of expenses in July because there were no scholars in the building and very few staff on the payroll. Starting in August, you will see a significant increase in expenses due to staff being paid with the start of school.

The Board questions the Ricoh and the Wells Fargo copier leases and the amounts the we are paying and the fact that they were not in the decision making process of the approval of the contract.

DeAndra Knighten motioned to approve the July financial statement. Anura seconded the motion and the July financials were approved.

Academic Report

Ms. Fatou introduced Mr. Vickers as the Middle School Assistant Principal and Ms. Burdah-Smith as the Instructional Coach for K-5. She also informed the Board that due to her illness that she has asked Mr. Mahmoud to lean into the Middle School and lead the effort into Middle School.

Ms. Fatou presented teh Academic Report for the start of school. We are currently seeking Educational Assistants and Paras to assistants with scholars and in the classrooms. The Code of Conduct was updated over the summer and posted on all websites and the parents were given the Code of Conducts at the Open House. There are currently 97 SPED scholars receiving SPED services and we are still in the process of identifying new students who may need services.

The Board would like it to be clear that the teachers and staff know that Mr. Vickers is their supervisor.

The Board asked about the data for the 8th grade math. Mr. Mahmoud stated that 8th grade math was down across the State. Anura asked about the value of the Math Coordinator. Mr. Mahmoud stated that the Math Coordinator focused on the 3rd and 4th grade teachers across the network and those scores increased and we will continue to focus on those strategies. We are implementing Math Stories this year in teaching scholars which is a more rigorous approach for scholars. Ms. Roegge talked about the new Language Arts program that is bringing the Joy factor back to reading.

Compliance Report

1. Review: CMO & Best Academy Contract

Ms. Peterson stated that it is important that the Board has a robust conversation about what they want and expect from the CMO. Although the contract is not up for approval, it is important that the Board sets expectations of the CMO. The Board will will have a more indepth discussion regarding the expectations of the CMO.

2. Approval: Contracts

Tonka Life - Brian Nelson, School Psychologist - Anura motioned to approve the contract. Meghan second and the contract was approved.

Comcast & TDS - Contracts did not have to be approved. This was for review.

Dr. Lesa Clarkson - DeAndra stated that she will not approve this contract due to past experiences. Poor communication from Dr. Clarkson, progress reports/report cards, as a parent she didn't know who Dr. Clarkson was, DeAndra's 8th grader hated Dr. Clarkson's class. Parent feedback is not positive due to Dr. Clarkson not being available to parents. DeAndra wanted to know if she is being evaluated? Anura stated that it is not in her contract that she is to be evaluated because she is listed as a contractor. Meghan Roegge stated that it should list that her services should include being evaluated, meeting with parents and the number of classes and expectations. Ezra stated that he feels that we are paying to much for what we are getting. The Board is asking HNS to keep looking for an 8th grade teacher.

3. Approval: ACNW Academic Goals

4. Approval: Annual Report

Anura motioned to approve the revised Annual Report. DeAndra seconded the motion. The revised Annual Report was approved.

5. Approval: Enrollment & Lottery Policy Updated

Anura motioned to approve the updated Enrollment & Lottery Policy. DeAndra seconded the motion, and the Motion passed.

6. Discussion: ACNW Leaders Retreat - November 10 - 11, 2017 is the ACNW Leaders Retreat in Sandstone, MN.

7. Discussion: EE Teachers Workshop Update - Mr. Boettcher provided the update on Environmental Education for the network. There are many forms which include nature walks, trips to the zoo, bird watching, experiential learning and it does not need to be separare from curriculum.

On Thursday, September 21 the Best Academy elections will take place. It woudl be great to have current board members there to help run the elections. The Board will have their Parent Information Tarble during Parent Teacher Conferences on September 1st from 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.

External Relations
Karen talked about learning about the new programs within the network and best practices that she is utilizing to fundraise. She is very hopeful to be able to raise funds this year for the schools. External Relations is very active with the scoial medial campaign for the network.

Adjourn Meeting - The meeting was adjourned at 9:10p.m.