

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
CLEVELAND ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ACADEMY
OCTOBER 8, 2024**

Directors Attending: Darlene Thaxton, Michele Russell, Belvia Martin, Larry Miller, Edwina Agee, Doxie Jelks, and Stafford Shenett

Guests: Willie Banks, Michelle Wagner, Jesse Williams, Danielle Doksa, Sherree Dillions, Megan Howard, and Becky Scheiman

Ms. Thaxton called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. There was no public comment.

Ms. Dillions then reviewed the Superintendent Report. She noted that she was excited for the month of September report due to the release of the Local Report Card. Ms. Dillions reported that the School received an Overall Rating of 4 stars on a 5 star scale. She also noted that the School received 5 stars on Progress, 5 stars on Gap Closing and 2 stars on Early Literacy with a performance index score of 79.7. She congratulated the School, noting it was a phenomenal performance. Ms. Dillions also recognized Ms. Doksa, the Director of Academics for the School on a job well done. She then informed the Board that the School continues to work towards reaching their budgeted enrollment goal.

Ms. Howard also congratulated the School on the wonderful results included in the Local Report Card. She noted that very few schools that are sponsored by OCCS received 2 stars on Early Literacy and congratulated the school. Ms. Howard noted that the Sponsor would be providing additional technical assistance on the Early Literacy component and Ms. Blair would be reaching out to the School to schedule the meeting. The School's first period compliance worksheets are almost completed and she would be uploading those to Epicenter. Ms. Howard reported that a walkthrough would be scheduled in the next two weeks and the School had one task that still needed to be completed in Epicenter.

Ms. Gillen reviewed the September financials. She noted that the School had a cash balance of just under \$1,982,000 at the end of September. She noted that the budget that was included in the budget to actual report still reflected the budget approved in the Spring and had yet to be updated. The information will be updated for the October report. The School had net income of approximately \$49,000 for September and \$76,000 year to date. Ms. Gillen reported that the School is pacing behind the budget for federal funds and reminded the Board that the School needed to expend the funds before being reimbursed by federal grants. The School was paid on an FTE of 374 in September and noted that the FTE is still based on the prior year enrollment. The FTE will true up in October. The aged payables were largely within the 0-30 day timeframe. Ms. Gillen also informed the Board that the audit is underway and will be going on for the next few months. She will update the Board on any issues that are identified.

Ms. Gillen then reviewed the Consolidated Funding Application. She explained that the materials included were screen shots from the CCIP or federal grants system. The materials show the funding the School receives for each type of grant as well as how the funds are being allocated for use in large categories.

Ms. Gillen then explained that the discussion regarding Tax Returns is on the Agenda so that she could provide a reminder to the Board. Typically, the 990 Tax Return is due by November 15th, but the School may apply for a six-month extension. As the audit is not yet finalized, this extension permits the fiscal office time to use the audited figures. There were no questions from the Board.

Ms. Scheiman then discussed the revised Automated External Defibrillator Policy, Prohibition Against Affirming Specific Beliefs Policy, Religious Accommodations Policy, and Cell Phone Policy. She reminded the Board of the new laws that were reviewed in August and noted that the laws are effective on October 24th. The new policies being presented are in response to the new requirements. Ms. Scheiman also reminded the Board that the School would no longer need to present the monthly verification of residency reports. As a result, the recommendation is to repeal the Student Residency and Address Verification Policy.

Ms. Scheiman reminded the Board that the Board has the right to decide to place a cap on enrollment at the School. The Board then discussed the option and noted the impact of having a large contingency of new students enroll on the academic progress. The Board noted the academic progress that was discussed at the beginning of the meeting based on the Local Report Card results and wanted to ensure that the growth continued in a positive direction. The Board also commented that the academics were more important than money. The Board then noted a desire to institute an enrollment cap of 400 students.

Mr. Williams presented the Head of School Report. He explained that he didn't have much to add to Ms. Dillions report. Mr. Williams reported that current enrollment is 390 students. The School is still looking for an Intervention Specialist, and another building substitute and/or instructional aide. He provided an update of the efforts being made to find the Intervention Specialist and discussed the School's current special education population.

Mr. Williams then informed the Board of the upcoming trip to Niagara Falls for those students who met the PBIS requirements in grades six through eight. He noted that the School has both attendance and behavior goals to earn the right to take the trip.

Ms. Doksa provided an update on the academics noting the School's focus on testing for the past two months. She explained that the iReady testing was completed and the students are now completing the Restart Readiness assessment. The School has also completed the KRA and the dyslexia screeners. Any required parent notifications resulting from the dyslexia screeners have also been sent. Ms. Doksa informed the Board

of the efforts being made to encourage parent participation in the parent/teacher conferences. She also reported that the after school tutoring program had begun.

Mr. Williams noted that the School had the fifth highest Local Report Card rating out of all community schools located in Cuyahoga County and was also in the top 10 in the State. The School has made a lot of progress since 2021. He then reviewed the recent and upcoming events noting the turnout of approximately 65 dads participating in the Fathers Walk.

Ms. Scheiman explained the Annual Report noting that the Report needed to be delivered to all families by October 31st. She explained that the School has some discretion on what is included in the Annual Report but it is meant to highlight and report out on the School's progress during the prior year.

The Board reviewed the minutes and hearing minutes from September 10, 2024, and there were no changes or corrections.

Thereafter, upon a motion made by Ms. Russell and seconded by Mr. Shenett, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the following resolutions:

- 24-77 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors accepts the Superintendent Report as presented.**
- 24-78 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors accepts the Head of School Report.**
- 24-79 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors accepts the Monthly Report on Verification of Student Residency as presented.**
- 24-80 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the Annual Report as presented and authorizes the Board President to approve subsequent revisions as necessary.**
- 24-81 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the Minutes from the September 10, 2024 meeting as presented.**
- 24-82 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the September 10, 2024 Hearing Minutes as presented.**
- 24-83 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors accepts the Sponsor's Report as presented.**
- 24-84 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the financial statements, including the check reconciliation, as presented.**
- 24-85 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the FY25 Consolidated Funding Application as presented and authorizes expenditures substantially in accordance therewith.**

24-86 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the revised Automated External Defibrillator Policy, Prohibition Against Affirming Specific Beliefs Policy, Religious Accommodations Policy, and Cell Phone Policy as presented.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby repeals the Student Residency and Address Verification Policy.

24-87 RESOLVED, that the School's enrollment be capped at 400 students for the 2024-2025 school year.

Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Edwina Agee, Secretary

Cleveland Arts and Social Sciences Academy

CLEVELAND ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ACADEMY
PROHIBITION AGAINST AFFIRMATIONS OF SPECIFIC BELIEFS
POLICY

The Board of Directors hereby adopts the following Policy regarding specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements or ideology.

The School is hereby prohibited from doing any of the following:

- I. Soliciting or requiring an employee or applicant for employment or academic admission to affirmatively ascribe to, or opine about, specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology;
- II. Soliciting or requiring a student to affirmatively ascribe to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology;
- III. Using statements of commitment to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements or ideology as part of the evaluation criteria for any employee or applicant for employment, of any employee seeking career progression or benefit; or
- IV. Using statements of commitment to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements or ideology as part of the academic evaluation of any student.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to prohibit, limit, or restrict any of the following:

- I. The School's authority to require a student or employee to comply with any federal or state law, including anti-discrimination laws, or to take action against a student or employee for violation of any federal or state law;
- II. An educator's academic freedom;
- III. An educator's ability to research or write publications about specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, ideology, or social action;
- IV. The School's authority to consider an applicant for employment's scholarship, teaching, or subject matter expertise in the applicant's given academic field; or
- V. The School's authority to offer an established character education program.

The School administrator shall make publicly available all policies, guidance (not to include any protected legal communications or guidance), and training materials used for students and staff on all matters regarding specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology. The School administrator has the discretion to determine which policies, guidance, or training materials, if any, meet this requirement and therefore must be made publicly available.