

Minutes of the 1/16/2020 board meeting of Community Leaders Advocating Student Success (C.L.A.S.S.)

Roll call was taken, and the meeting was called to order at 6:55p.m. Roll call was then taken. The following board members were present: Mr. Edwards, Mrs. Minor, Ms. London, Mrs. Roubion, and Mr. LaPierre. Other parties present were CEO, Mrs. Batiste and Business Manager, Ms. Watson. Also present were representatives of C.L.A.S.S.'s audit team, Natalia Shurte and Amy Verberne (arrived after start of meeting started), from Carr Riggs & Ingram.

As Mrs. Verberne, Audit Manager, was not yet present Mrs. Batiste asked that the agenda be modified to move the discussion of this year's audit report to a later point in the meeting; as to allow Mrs. Verberne time to arrive. A motion was then made by Mrs. Roubion and seconded by Ms. London to adopt the agenda with the modification to move the discussion of the audit report upon Mrs. Verberne's arrival.

Next, Mr. Edwards asked for a motion to adopt Oct.'s minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Roubion and seconded by Mr. LaPierre; the motion unanimous consent.

Mrs. Batiste then gave her Principal's report. She informed the board that they are still a lot of faculty vacancies at the school. In particular, she stated that the 2nd grade teaching stop is in that number and is currently being manned by a substitute teacher. Mrs. Batiste then went on to say that she has been having discussions with successful teachers regarding recommendations for new talent. Mrs. Batiste then emphasized that currently we have a teacher's market; meaning that qualified teachers don't have problems finding jobs.

Next, Mrs. Batiste turned her focus to bus transportation. She stated that B & L transportation are our service contractor's and have passed inspection.

Mrs. Batiste informed the board that transportation expense is a big line item but we're not seeing the benefit yet. This is b/c tiering has not been working. Even still, she stated that we're still trying to find partners for tiering for the purpose of getting a rate discount.

She then informed the board that LEAP testing starts the week of 3/30. Additionally, Mrs. Batiste talked about the renewal period; and said that it's coming up, in 21 days. Given this, Mrs. Batiste stated that tutoring has started for LEAP.

Mrs. Roubion then asked a couple of questions; which, Mrs. Batiste answered. Part of this discussion included information regarding how many students didn't qualify of LEAP Connect.

With no other matters regarding the Principal's report, Mrs. Batiste then discussed receipt of one piece of correspondence. She informed the board that the Director of Accounting would be resigning. Brief conversation was had regarding this; and with only minor discussion regarding this, Mrs. Batiste concluded her report.

Next Mrs. Batiste lead a discussion regarding our fee policy. She told the board the results of the 2019 Legislative update. She went on to say that a compliance check for Fannie C's website was conducted and that one area of non-compliance was found. The finding related to how student fees are collected and used (Act 240). Handouts for C.L.A.S.S.'s new fee policy were presented and after brief discussion was held, Mr. Edwards made a motion to accept the proposed policy. A point of order was then interjected by Mr. LaPierre and related to the presiding chair not being able to make a motion without

relinquishing the chair. Given this, Mr. LaPierre then made the motion to accept the proposed fee policy and a second was made by Ms. London. Motion passed unanimously. These handouts are included as part of the minutes. Lastly, regarding website compliance, Mrs. Batiste stated that there is a possibility that having board biographies available for review on our website, may become a requirement.

With no other matters to discuss regarding the 2019 Legislative update, Ms. Watson gave her Business Manager's report. She discussed: 1) the measures of financial health, 2) the matrix, and, 3) the dashboard; a report prepared by NOLA Public Schools after submission of information by the school.

Next, she discussed the budget. She stated that the administration is paying attention to it.

At this point in time, Mrs. Verberne entered the meeting. As such, discussion of the audit report took place. Mrs. Verberne gave a detailed and concise summary of the following reports: audit, internal control, and BESE agreed-upon procedures (BESE report). With respect to the BESE report, she discussed the 4 (four) required procedures and the 2 (two) exceptions that were noted. These reports are included as part of the minutes. She pointed out that the exceptions related to the untimeliness of deposits and the failure of the board to have the required numbers of meetings as outlined in its bylaws. A brief discussion was then had regarding these exceptions.

Mrs. Verberne then informed the board that as a result of a new rule change that net assets language has changed. She then went on to discuss the \$750,000 increase in grant revenue. She further discussed additional new disclosure changes for functional expenses; page 11 of the report. Mrs. Verberne went on to briefly discuss new disclosures (note 2), note 3, and note 10. Lastly, she discussed the new Child Nutrition program and the new financial statements standards. These standards related to the presentation of the Cashflow Statement.

With no other matters to discuss, the board thanked our auditors and a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Roubion and then seconded by Mr. LaPierre.

The meeting then adjourned.