



March 21, 2024 @ 10:30 am

Mr. Dedesma called the meeting to order.

Prior Minutes: Mr. Dedesma reviewed the minutes of the previous board meeting back in December.  
Prior minutes unanimously approved.

Agreement Document: Mr. Dedesma introduced this meeting with a follow-up on the document agreement between Beacon College Prep and HIVE Preparatory School. He explained that the follow-ups requested in the prior meeting have been done (clarity on roles, include a non-compete, add some admin overhead). Mr. Girogini expressed the need for a longer non-compete timeframe, that 1 year was not enough. All board member agreed. Mr. Dedesma asked that a final review of this agreement needs to be done by the insurance agent so that both schools can be covered to its fullest.

School Operations: Mr. Gonzalez presented that HIVE has been recognized as a Blue-Ribbon School for the 2023 school year. That a final packet is being submitted to the federal program and requires the signatures of the school leader, board chair, and district superintendent. Blue Ribbon recognition is a big deal, only the highest performing schools in the state receive this.

Mr. Gonzalez presented that HIVE has been named a finalist for the Building Hope Impact Award – Joe Bruno Leadership Award. This category is for school performance and HIVE is one of 3 finalists out of hundreds of entries. The next steps are to present in an April conference hosted by Building Hope. Within this conference, one of the three schools will receive a 20k gift and the other two will receive a 10k gift.

Enrollment: Mr. Gonzalez showed the application and enrollment numbers for the SY25. To date, there are over 400 new student applicants and over 200 specific to kindergarten. HIVE's goal for the next year is to enroll 100 new kindergarten students. With the assumption that all other students are returning, next year's enrollment will be around 870.

Mr. Gonzalez explained that the marketing program this year has included a branding and social media marketing campaign with a contracted company. As of now, the return on investment is not meeting expectations. The vast majority of applicants did not indicate any social media marketing as how they

heard of HIVE and the one's that did have expressed frustration with the methods and amounts of communication received from this campaign. Mrs. Maya-Munne asked if we should continue this strategy and expressed that we should not renew with this company if there is not a dramatic increase in return on investments. Board approved unanimously.

Title 1: Mr. Dedesma asked about an update regarding HIVE's Title 1 status for the current school year. Mr. Gonzalez explained that, as of the October FTE, HIVE met the requirements for Title 1 but that the first batch of funds were not received until March. However, the amount awarded to the school was 200-300k less than expected and that no one in the Title 1 department has provided a clear answer as to why. Mr. Gonzalez said that in his opinion, the department is ignoring their mistake in hopes that HIVE moves on without legal action. Mr. Giorgini expressed that we should engage the school's lawyer. Board approved unanimously.

Mr. Gonzalez showed that the Title 1 Audit requested that all of the documentation required from the entire school year was being requested of us, but that the full funding was not being provided.

Mr. Gonzalez presented the updated Title 1 Budget. The Budget was considerably less than expected. Thus, the funds only supported a School Counselor, a partial Paraprofessional, a part-time CIS, and printing costs for the family engagement programming. Board approved unanimously.

Budget: Mr. Lopez showed a quarterly and to-date budget showing the school in a surplus greater than budgeted. He showed that the increase in tax referendum funds, arrival of ESSER reimbursements, and increase in capital outlay have played a big role. Mr. Giorgini asked for a budget that showed the operating costs without ESSER to ensure that the school will continue successfully after ESSER grants expire. Mr. Lopez showed that the school has maintained its operating budget surpluses at the same rate it did prior to grants.

Mr. Gonzalez presented that the school purchased 300k in devices as per the ESSER ARP budget and that there is a remaining balance of about 1.4M in this grant that must be spent by Sept 2024. The large pending items are the roof-top playing field, the covered walkway between the two buildings, and the re-doing of doors and windows in the old building. Only the doors/windows project has progressed and is currently in the permitting stages. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the crosswalk project is in the earliest stages. The roof top project continues to get no traction despite many efforts.

Mr. Lopez presented a revised budget for ESSER ARP with some of these funds being maneuvered into other items with increased needs. Board approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 12:56 pm

