

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Drexel Foundation for Educational Excellence, Inc.
DBA Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
3401 W. 5th Avenue, Gary, IN 46406
Wednesday, May 31, 2023
6:00 PM CT

I. Meeting Called to Order

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Thea Bowman Leadership Academy (“TBLA”) was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair at 6:02 PM CT.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited by the assembled Directors and attendees.

III. Roll Call

Eve Gomez, President	Present
Jason Beres, Vice President	Present
Michelle Dickerson, Treasurer	Present
Cliff Gooden	Present
Helen Hill	Absent
Cedric Steele	Present

Other Attendees:

- Marisa Simmons, Principal, Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
- Eva Spilker, President & CFO, PLA
- Carlo Hershberger, CPA, PLA
- Melissa Morris, NW Regional Director, PLA
- Jewell Harris, Jr., Attorney, Harris Law Firm
- Tahirah Thompson, Director of Operations Facilities & New School Launch, PLA
- Antoinette Troupe, Operations Manager, TBLA
- Johnny Jin, Chief Strategy & Development Officer, PLA
- Biafran Stiff, Student Enrollment Coordinator, PLA
- Ashley Minter, Director of Marketing & Communications, PLA
- JoAnn Gama, Chief Human Assets Officer, PLA
- Andrea Robinson, Chief Academic Officer, PLA
- Amanda Webb, Assistant Director of Community Connections, Education One
- Paul Farrington, Associate Director of Operations, PLA
- Dr. Shaunna Finley, Blue Onyx Consulting, LLC

a. Approval of Board Agenda

Motion: Cliff Gooden

Support: Michelle Dickerson

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

The Board unanimously voted to approve the board agenda.

b. Approval of Board Minutes from April 26, 2023

Motion: Michelle Dickerson

Support: Jason Beres

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

The Board unanimously voted to approve the board minutes.

IV. CMO Report

a. Principal's Report

Principal, Marisa Simmons, presented the May Admin Report and provided an academic update, the data dashboard, May events, and end-of-year events.

ACTION ITEM: Michelle Dickerson requested a breakdown of where senior scholars will be transitioning to (e.g., college, trade school, workforce, etc.).

Principal Simmons provided a brief update on summer programming, which will be staffed internally and held from June 12-July 6, 8:00 am-Noon.

b. Academic Support Update

Melissa Morris honored the administrators, teachers, and support staff of the year.

c. Financial Report

Carlo Hershberger presented an overview of the income statement, cash balances, accounts payable balances, days cash, and enrollment.

Eva Spilker presented the FY 2023-24 Budget Summary.

V. Updates

a. ESSER

Johnny Jin, Chief Strategy & Development Officer, provided an ESSER overview and was pleased to report that the amendments were approved.

ACTION ITEM: Michelle Dickerson requested an itemized breakdown of budgeted personnel and bus transportation.

b. Marketing/Enrollment

Biafran Stiff, Student Enrollment Coordinator, presented the enrollment and recruitment update.

ACTION ITEM: Biafran to rebrand the marketing and mailing items and have them updated by the second week of June.

VI. Authorizer Report (Trine University/Education One LLC)

Amanda Webb shared the accountability update and upcoming events. The End of Year Satisfaction Surveys are due on June 5th.

VII. Old Business

a. Approval of PTO Policy Changes

Motion: Jason Beres

Support: Michelle Dickerson

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

The Board unanimously voted to approve the PTO Policy Changes.

b. Food Service Update

Paul Farrington provided an update on the food service management company's request for proposal.

VIII. New Business

a. Approval of HVAC Replacement & Repairs

The Board made a motion to approve the HVAC replacement and repairs quotes.

Motion: Jason Beres

Support: Michelle Dickerson

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

b. Approval of Resolution to Transfer Banking Services

The Board made a motion to approve the resolution to transfer banking services.

Motion: Jason Beres

Support: Michelle Dickerson

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

c. Approval of Contract with Blue Onyx Consulting, LLC

The Board made a motion to approve the contract with administrative consultant, Blue Onyx.

Motion: Jason Beres

Support: Cliff Gooden

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

d. Approval of Design/Build Agreement for Classroom Expansion

The Board made a motion to approve the MECA engineering building expansion contract.

Motion: Michelle Dickerson

Support: Cedric Steele

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

e. Approval of Agreement for Engineering Study, with Exhibit A (MECA Engineering – to determine suitability of site and obtain necessary data to initiate additional building projects)

The Board made a motion to approve the engineering study, with exhibit A (MECA Engineering).

Motion: Cliff Gooden

Support: Michelle Dickerson

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

f. Approval of Board Retreat

The Board made a motion to approve the board retreat on June 3, 2023.

Motion: Michelle Dickerson
Yays: 5

Support: Jason Beres
Nays: 0

g. Swearing-in of New Board Member, Jerry Williams
The oath of office was given by Eve Gomez.

IX. Discussion Items

a. Facility Updates

Tahirah Thompson and Antoinette Troupe provided an update on the grant facility projects.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Troupe to look into why the large lights on top of the building on the west side are on during daylight hours.

b. Bus Transportation

Paul Farrington provided pricing and information regarding bus transportation.

ACTION ITEM: Paul to reach out to Midwest Transit for pricing and low mileage for a yellow school bus.

X. PTA

None

XI. Open Communication/Public Comments

Eve asked how often does the landscaper come out and service the lawn. Ms. Troupe is currently looking for a new vendor.

XII. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Michelle Dickerson Support: Jason Beres

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.