Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Drexel Foundation for Educational Excellence, Inc.
DBA Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
3401 W. 5th Avenue, Gary, IN 46406
Wednesday, September 27, 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, September 27, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair at 6:15 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
Helen Hill	Present
Cedric Steele	Present
Jerry Williams	Absent
Bernard Carter	Absent

Other Attendees:
- Marisa Simmons, Principal, Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
- Antoinette Troupe, Operations Manager, TBLA
- Jewell Harris, Jr., Attorney, Harris Law Firm
- Caitlin Hicks, Education One
- Eva Spilker, President & CFO, PLA
- Melissa Morris, NW Executive Director, PLA
- Andrea Robinson, Chief Academic Officer, PLA

a. Approval of Board Agenda
The board made a motion to amend the agenda and move Open Communication/Public Comments to the beginning of the agenda.
Motion: Jason Beres   Support: Michelle Dickerson
Yays: 5   Nays: 0
The board unanimously voted to approve the amended agenda.

b. Approval of Board Minutes from August 30, 2023.
Motion: Michelle Dickerson   Support: Helen Hill
Yays: 5   Nays: 0
The board unanimously voted to approve the board minutes.

IV.   **Open Communication/Public Comments** (*amended agenda item)*
None

V.   **CMO Report**
a. Principal's Report
Principal Marisa Simmons, presented the admin report on enrollment, academics,
professional development, testing, events, and upcoming community outreach events.
Dual credit is currently offered through Trine. In order to offer additional dual credits,
certified teachers are needed.

b. Academic Support Update
Melissa Morris presented the academic board report and discussed building leader goals
and tacticals, BOY instructional review process, and teacher and leader goal setting.

ACTION ITEM: Melissa to share the average GPA of current high school Seniors.

c. Financial Report
Eva Spilker presented the financial review with an overview of the income statement,
balance sheet, and enrollment.

VI.   **Authorizer Report (Trine University/Education One LLC)**
Caitlin Hicks shared the authorizer's accountability update, academic performance,
historical proficiency, financial performance, organizational performance, community
connections, and upcoming events.

VII.   **Old Business**
a. MECA Engineering shared and discussed the site plan for the potential building
expansion.

b. Approval of the Board of Directors Bylaws
The board made a motion to approve the updated bylaws.
Motion: Helen Hill   Support: Michelle Dickerson
Yays: 5   Nays: 0
The board unanimously voted to approve the Board of Directors Bylaws.

VIII.   **New Business**
a. Approval of Stair Treads
The board made a motion to approve the stair treads.
Motion: Cedric Steele   Support: Jason Beres
Yays: 5   Nays: 0

The board unanimously voted to approve the stair treads.

b. Approval of Additional Lighting Purchase
The board made a motion to approve the additional purchase for lighting.
Motion: Jason Beres   Support: Cedric Steele
Yays: 5   Nays: 0
The board unanimously voted to approve the purchase through Universal Lighting of America.

IX.   PTA
PTA President, Tanisha Smith, provided the PTA update. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17th and the PTA will host a guest speaker, Mr. Cory Williams. PTA membership dues are $10/adults and $7/scholars and are due by November 15th.

X.   Open Communication/Public Comments
- Tanisha Smith asked the board to please reconsider leaving the agenda as-is and keeping open communication at the end of the agenda.
- The Director of Bands inquired about rehearsal space for the band.

XI.   Meeting Adjourned
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.
Motion: Cedric Steele   Support: Helen Hill
The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.