



Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 @ 3:30 pm
Conference Room and Virtual Option via Google Meets

1. Opening Session

a. Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum, and Proper Notice

1. Thomas Chaffee called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm, seconded by Dan Kennedy. Quorum was confirmed, and proper notice was given.

b. Approval of Meeting Minutes - May 29, 2024

1. Thomas Chaffee motioned to approve the meeting minutes of May 29, 2024, seconded by Dan Kennedy. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comments - Geri Chaffee congratulated the Head of School for her read-ahead report for the board.

3. Reports

a. Head of School's Read-Ahead report provided by Dr. Cathy Rodriguez.

- i. Check out our [Welcome Video](#) on our newly launched YouTube Channel.
- ii. Staffing Updates
 - ❖ The last week of July, we hosted our largest New Staff Orientation ever. We're excited to announce that we have successfully onboarded a team of exceptional certified teachers for our dual language program. Many of them are currently completing ESOL certification courses to ensure compliance.
 - ❖ In addition, we have welcomed Marta Sanchez-Acevedo as our new bilingual school counselor.
 - ❖ Our team includes new paraprofessionals, a receptionist, a clinic aide, and facilities crew members.
 - ❖ We're pleased to share that we've promoted internal staff members to roles such as interventionist, literacy coach, and math coach, supported by Title I funding.
 - ❖ We're also bringing substitute teachers with dual language experience to support our program further.
 - ❖ Lastly, Dustin Miller will be assisting our fundraising committee, and we are glad to introduce Ashley Vail as our new Safe Schools Deputy (SSD).
- iii. Benefits Update
 - ❖ We've transitioned our medical insurance from Florida Blue to AETNA, while



continuing to offer dental and vision coverage through Guardian with the assistance of our partners Fringe Benefits and Building Hope. We also continue to offer retirement plans through Lincoln Financial.

iv. Enrollment Status

- ❖ Our kindergarten and 1st-grade classes currently have a waiting list, but we still have available seats in 2nd and 3rd grades and, more prominently, in 4th grade. We are running a marketing campaign to address this, and we anticipate that the seats will be filled as soon as families respond to our recent mailers.

v. District Plans

- ❖ We have submitted several key plans to the district, including our School Improvement Plan, Mental Health Allocation Plan, Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan, and Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Most of these plans, as well as Title I information for families, are available for review on our website.

vi. Testing and Progress Monitoring

- We have begun progress monitoring for grades 3-5 and are extending testing to K-2. Additionally, we've acquired Istation, a digital reading platform, to track student growth and progress in both languages of instruction. We will start using this platform in September.

vii. Fundraising Initiatives

- ❖ We are part of a cohort with the Barancik Foundation, receiving coaching for our fundraising efforts. We are working on implementing a strategic fundraising plan using the Jumpstart platform from Network for Good. The committee overseeing this initiative includes Geri Chaffes, Dustin Miller, Andres Bonett, myself, and Dr. Cathy Rodriguez.

viii. Family Engagement

- ❖ Our Parent and Family Engagement Plan is on the website (click [here](#) to read it). Our Parent Teacher Council (PTC) has been actively and diligently working on many initiatives, such as school-wide events, a family directory, volunteering, and more. A couple of our parents volunteered 11 hrs of their time to build a Gaga ball pit for our students.
- ❖ One of their upcoming events is the Fall Festival on October 4.
- ❖ The Hispanic Heritage Festival at St. Jude's Church will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2024. We will again sponsor the event this year.

ix. School Grade

- ❖ A letter was sent to families addressing our school grade and providing talking points for when families and stakeholders ask about it.

4. New Business - Board vote

- a. Discussed the Board's 3-year term and the need to be staggered. Some terms will expire.
- b. Dan Kennedy made a motion to approve Thomas Chaffee to continue to serve on the Board as Chair, seconded by Humberto Alvia. The motion passed unanimously. Dan Kennedy will continue to serve as Vice-Chair.



- c. Thomas Chaffee made a motion to approve Humberto Alvia as the Board's treasurer, seconded by Dan Kennedy. The motion passed unanimously.
 - d. Thomas Chaffee motioned to approve Aylette Figueredo for Secretary of the Board, seconded by Dan Kennedy. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Board Discussions/Actions - None
6. Board Comments—Board member Humberto Alvia wanted to confirm if Dreamers would be sponsoring the Hispanic Heritage Festival in St. Jude on November 9th, and the answer is yes.
7. Adjournment - Thomas Chaffee motioned to adjourn at 3:52 pm. Humberto Alvia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.