Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

EDUPRIZE SCHOOLS
580 W Melody Lane
Gilbert, AZ 85233

January 9, 2025

Members in attendance:	Seth Klempner Carrie Larson Monika Calamita
Non-Members present:	Todd Noel (virtual) Michael Gordon-Smith Jennifer Murphy Robin Yeargain Maria Rosetti Dixie Marshall Aimee Arnold Megan Hargus

The meeting was held per posted agenda on our webpage and as posted in the foyer at 4567 W. Roberts Road, Queen Creek, AZ and 580 W. Melody Lane, Gilbert, AZ.

1. **Call to Order**
   The meeting was called to order by Board President Seth Klempner at 1:05 pm.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   The minutes from the prior Board of Directors meetings held on 12/12/24 were reviewed. A motion was made by Carrie Larson to approve the minutes as presented, and Monika Calamita seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved with Seth Klempner, Carrie Larson and Monika Calamita in favor. None opposed.

3. **Consideration of Principals' Reports**
   a. J. Murphy reported that the secondary school had 3.5 hours of AVID training where they were focused on defining rigor. It went well, and the next step is to finish defining rigor and how it works in secondary space. Jennifer and other leadership met with Diane Fox where they discussed testing data, and they will be meeting with staff to discuss implementation of strategies to improve their scores.

   b. R. Yeargain reported that the elementary teachers had inservice with an iReady trainer and looked at data for fall and winter benchmark scores. They placed kids in groups to move up in proficiency levels. EL testing is starting soon, and the state has asked EDUPRIZE to test 5 non-EL kids to determine if the test is possible to pass. The state will select students. Project Ex is coming soon, the final payment will be made tomorrow. The elementary team also met with Diane Fox this week.

c. B. Solberg - no report as he is attending a data meeting in Queen Creek.

4. **Consideration of SPED Reports**
M. Rosetti reported that things are going well. The next visit with the ADE coming up soon. In the last meeting the ADE stated that they are finding good systematic changes. The SPED team from both campuses also met with Diane Fox. They looked at data and are making plans and changes based on their meeting.

5. **Consideration of Superintendent Report**
Michael Gordon-Smith shared:
   a. Basketball: The Open basketball team has a large tournament coming up in Atlanta, GA, which offers potential exposure for our school. The cost will be covered partially by the Booster, and partially by the student athletes. A motion was made by Monika Calamita to approve the Open basketball team trip to the Atlanta tournament, and Carrie Laron seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved with Seth Klempner, Carrie Larson and Monika Calamita in favor. None opposed.

   b. Principals at Board Meetings: MGS would like to open for discussion whether the principals should attend board meetings. He recommends principals provide him with info to report on their behalf, as attending board meetings keeps principals away from their jobs for an extended period of time. All admin meet with MGS the morning of Board Meetings, where they discuss things that need to be brought up to the board. R. Yeargain, J. Murphy and M. Rosetti all agreed that they can pass on information to MGS to share, and attend the board meetings when needed. The board members relayed that they like having a connection with the principals and the schools. After some general discussion it was decided that for now the principals will attend the beginning of the meeting (in person or virtually), give their presentations, and then they are free to leave. They are welcome to stay longer whenever they like, and they will be notified when they need to stay to participate in specific discussions. The SPED Director is no longer expected to attend (but may still attend), MGS can present when there is information to share, and M Rosetti will be invited when needed.

   c. Enrollment Presentation: Enrollment has grown slightly in the schools, the goal is to see significant growth in enrollment over next few months. In an interesting enrollment development, a local charter school is closing at the end of the school year, and they have approximately 200 kids in PreK-6. MGS has had several conversations with the principal, and is setting up a tour for the admin/staff next week. The hope is to get the families to come, and possibly some teachers. Competing charter schools in the area are not as aligned in their missions as we are. The goal is to have 3 days set aside for the families to come tour our campus the week after next. The local charter school's admin has been very receptive.

   d. Marketing Director: Jason Wojciechowski has been hired as our Marketing Director and will be starting Jan 21, 2025. MGS is impressed with his background in google and facebook marketing. Jason will be working on boosting enrollment through digital media and a general rebranding. When tours take place, families will find a universal brand. MGS will be meeting with him regarding the small and big things that have to happen. Carrie Larson requested business cards for the board when the rebranding takes place. Seth Klempner clarified that marketing and recruitment work together so there are no gaps. MGS said he will need to purchase a tracking system, which tracks emails and visits to our website, and learns about their demographics so we can target similar people.

e. Letter Grade & Data: How did we make our A, where do we need to improve? MGS provided PD for admin on Friday, January 3rd on how to approach data to improve our academic standing. MGS shared slides on how we are graded, cut scores, bonus points, and breakdown of scores.

   There will be financial incentive built into the addenda for teachers to help students improve their scores. MGS is optimistic the data will be better next year. The theory is if we focus on proficiency, we will get the growth. Differentiated instruction improves every student.

f. Handbook: MGS is working on updating a single student handbook for both campuses. There may be a need to have a virtual board meeting to get approval for new addenda, the potential handbook, and staff policies and procedures. Teacher contracts are probably going out a couple weeks later than normal. Intent to Return forms go out to all staff tomorrow, due back by January 24th. Contracts should be going out on Feb 21st, to be returned by March 7th. Changes should be sent to the board in the next couple of weeks, then the meeting can be scheduled. The new mission statement had positive feedback from focus groups. It will need to be submitted to the AZ Charter Board.

g. Animals: MGS has been looking at the different animals on the two campuses, and weighing the cost vs the educational value of each animal? We may not need some of the animals that we have. For example, the tortoises are part of cottages, but the fish on the Gilbert campus are not part of any curriculum, as standards have changed, although it is labeled as a live learning lab. The fish are currently used to calm down kids. MGS's preference is to utilize them as a live learning lab in the grades.

6. **Review of Financial Reports**
   A motion was made by Carrie Larson to approve the financial reports as presented to the board, and Monika Calamita seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved with Seth Klempner, Carrie Larson and Monika Calamita in favor. None opposed.

7. **Approval of Expenditures and Disbursements**
   A motion was made by Carrie Larson to approve the expenditures and disbursements as presented to the board, and Monika Calamita seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved with Seth Klempner, Carrie Larson and Monika Calamita in favor. None opposed.

Call to Public: None

A motion was made by Seth Klempner to adjourn the meeting, and Carrie Larson seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved with Seth Klempner, Carrie Larson and Monika Calamita in favor. None opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 pm by Seth Klempner.