



RISING LEADERS ACADEMY

Governing Board Minutes – February 4, 2015

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A public meeting of the Governing Board was called to order by Dr. Eren Ozgen, President, at 12:00 p.m.

Other Board members present included: Mr. Tarone Watley, Mr. Osama Albibi, Dr. Ahmed Rezk, Mr. Todd Zaborski, Dr. Ahmed Baker

Administrative staff present: Mrs. Suha Jaber, Principal

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of November 4, 2014 were unanimously approved by the Board.

ITEM # 1: ELECTIONS FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Hatem Mouad has moved and will not be on our Board anymore. An email will be sent to the RLA community calling for nominations. Nominees will email Board with resume and cover letter stating why they would like to join the Board to the following address:

Dr. Eren Ozgen: EOzgenBoard@gmail.com
Mr. Tarone Watley: TWatleyBoard@gmail.com
Mr. Osama Albibi: OAlbibiBoard@gmail.com
Dr. Ahmed Baker: AAbobakerBoard@gmail.com
Dr. Hatem Mourad: HMouradBoard@gmail.com
Mr. Todd Zaborski: Tkebotfa@gmail.com
Dr. Ahmed Rezk: Asrezk1@gmail.com

Board will review resumes and cover letters and vote during the next meeting.

ITEM # 2: ACCREDITATION

- STEP 1: Readiness Visit on December 3 by previous Superintendent James McCalister. Based on visit, Mr. McCalister recommended RLA for accreditation.
- STEP 2: Accreditation Review training completed on Feb 2 in Orlando.
- STEP 3: External Review visit on April 28, 29.

ITEM 3#: ANNUAL REVIEW OF MISSION (STATEMENT OF PURPOSE)

Rising Leaders Academy (RLA) is dedicated to preparing students in Bay County for outstanding academic achievement, interpersonal skills, elevated ethical character, and a firm command of foreign languages. Students will achieve academic excellence through a developmentally rigorous, innovative, challenging, college preparatory curriculum in a warm, nurturing environment with outstanding teachers. RLA will prepare students to have a sincere responsibility to give back to the community, with a focus on strong leadership skills. This mission will be achieved through sound financial management practices.

The Board recommended removing college preparatory because RLA does not have a high school at this time. A recommendation is made to put project-based advanced level instead.

The Principal reported the following on how the mission has been implemented:

RLA is currently using the rigorous Common Core Standards with Expeditionary Learning. Students gain interpersonal skills through teamwork and public speaking activities. In middle school, our 6th graders are taking 8th grade math (Pre-Algebra), programming, and critical thinking classes in addition to the 6th grade standards. Language Arts includes 8th grade standards too. All students practice Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Students who have been taken foreign languages at RLA from year one are now at the same level as the students who started in advanced languages. Plans for two levels in Arabic and Spanish available to all students. RLA creates a nurturing environment by reviewing the Code of Conduct daily and focusing heavily on good character. RLA continues to fundraise, collect donations, and spend money wisely to ensure sound financial management.

ITEM # 4: ACCOUNTING & PAYROLL

- New Payroll system: PayChex around \$1500 a year compared to previous rate of \$4500
- Accounting remains with SFS.

ITEM # 5: FACILITY

- Distract asked if we can move by summer so they can use the facility.
- We contacted FSU, but they currently have no space.
- Option to purchase or continue lease of current facility may not be available.
- Current lease up in June 2017.

SUGGESTION:

Review the Bay District lease of the RLA facility to decide on buying or moving out. The lease will be emailed to all members and discussed during the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.