



Tuesday, February 25, 2020
Rocketship Public Schools Executive Committee (2019-20 Q3)

Meeting Time: 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Meeting Location: 2001 Gateway Place, Suite 230E, San Jose, CA 95110

Teleconference locations:

3173 Senter Rd, San Jose, CA 95111

1700 Cavallo Rd, Antioch, CA 94509

2351 Olivera Rd, Concord, CA 94520

320 Plus Park Blvd, Nashville, TN 37317

1440 Connecticut Dr, Redwood City, CA 94061

9112 Vendome Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817

175 Fox Hollow Rd, Woodside, CA 94062

185 Spur Ridge CT, Healdsburg, CA 95448

1. Opening Items (3:00pm-3:05pm)

A. Call to Order

B. Public Comment on Off-Agenda Items

2. Consent Items (3:05pm-3:10pm)

A. Approve minutes from November 7, 2019 Executive Committee meeting

3. Agenda Items (3:10pm-3:25pm)

A. Parent members of the Rocketship Board of Directors

4. Closed Session (3:25pm-3:55pm)

A. Closed Session : Public Employee Performance Evaluation Pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957: CEO

5. Agenda Items (3:55pm-4:00pm)

A. Public Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session

6. Adjourn (4:00pm)

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND TIMINGS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice, provided that the Board takes action to effectuate such change. Timings listed on the agenda are estimates only and may change depending on the duration of public comment and discussion around prior items.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY: Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting may request assistance by contacting Apoorva Katikaneni at akatikaneni@rsed.org.



Formal Process for Appointing Rocketship Rocketeer Parents to the Board of Directors Rocketship Public Schools February 2020

Parents are our children's first and best teachers, a fact that Rocketship works daily to honor with our core pillar of *Parent Power*. Rocketship intentionally builds meaningful relationships with parents, directly engaging them as partners in their children's education and as leaders in their school and broader community.

We strive to create a variety of opportunities for parents to become active participants in their school and the community as they promote their children's education and make their voices heard. Our teachers and school leaders conduct home visits and conferences in order to better know our families, as well as keep them updated on their child's academic and social-emotional progress, and regularly communicate with parents via emails, phone calls, and notes home. We encourage strong family attendance at school events, which can include community meetings, morning launch, afternoon landing, coffee with the principal, exhibition nights, Los Dichos, parent/family meetings on the weekend or weeknights, and other school community events that vary slightly from school to school. In a conscientious effort to listen and better serve all of our families, we also conduct an annual parent satisfaction survey, which provides a unique opportunity to hear directly and anonymously from a large number of parents across the network on a variety of topics. Each year we bring the results of this survey not only to school-level leadership, but also to our Rocketship Board Achievement Committee as well as central teams across Rocketship so we can be sure to learn from our parents' feedback and incorporate it into and elevate our practices. Rocketship also strives for our parents to recognize their power and influence, whether that is in helping to name a new school or interview and select staff, or as they build upon their power and advocacy to create larger system- and city-wide transformation.

Rocketship has formal structures in place for parents to lead in school governance through the School Site Council (SSC), English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC), and Regional Advisory Council (RAC).

Each California Rocketship school forms a School Site Council, which is comprised of parents, teachers and school staff. The number of parent members on the SSC are equal to the number of school personnel, with both parents and teachers selected by a formal election process. Each school hosts an open nomination period at the beginning of the school year. During this time, parents are able to nominate themselves or other parents for both the SSC. After the nomination period has ended, every school holds an election period where parents vote for their SSC parent representatives. Nominees with the most votes are officially appointed to their SSC. During the first SSC meeting, parent representatives then nominate and elect the roles of President and Vice President for a one-year term.

The SSC participates in the development and approval of the school's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which governs how the school spends its categorical funding. Beyond fulfilling its legal obligations, the SSC also empowers parents in the education of their children in a number of activities and initiatives, including, but not limited to:

- Engage in professional development opportunities for parents (e.g. through trainings in data analysis, budget review, curriculum and instruction, etc.)
- Review attendance trends and policies.
- Review English learner achievement and reclassification data.

- Review the Parent Survey and School Needs Assessment.
- Engage in budget and categorical funding allocation (LCFF allocation).
- Review the instructional model and curriculum.
- Provide input on school events, school culture, and staff professional development.
- Provide input on school policies, school safety plans, and discipline procedures.
- Implement initiatives to increase parent engagement.

In addition to the SSC, each school has its own ELAC which is also comprised of parents and school staff. Similarly to SSC, parents and staff go through the same nomination and election process to become an official member of the ELAC. The primary focus of the ELAC is to advise the SSC and school leadership on academic and non academic topics pertaining to English Learner students. Topics include but are not limited to:

- Provide input in the development of the school's EL needs assessment.
- Provide input for the school's annual language census.
- Explore and provide feedback on new methods to improve EL supports and services.
- Review EL academic and non-academic indicators.

Each school has a seat on the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and may be represented by the President of their School Site Council or, in the president's absence, the Vice President. Both Presidents and VPs of SSC are invited to attend the RAC. The primary responsibility of the Regional Advisory Council is to serve as a formal body giving voice to Rocketship student, family, and community needs in cities and counties where Rocketship operates schools. The Advisory Council frequently provides advice and counsel to Rocketship's executive leadership; provides meaningful input to the Board of Directors on topics such as plans and strategies for parent engagement, program and operational improvements, and staff development; builds local partnerships to enhance the quality and sustainability of Rocketship schools; and speaks publicly at local events, political forums, and site visits to provide a local perspective to regional issues. In addition, the Rocketship Public Schools Board of Directors annually meets with parents from the Regional Advisory Council to learn from their perspectives and gather input on a variety of topics. Rocketship is proud of our continuous efforts in engaging parents, and just as with the parent survey, we are open to new and better ways of expanding our efforts of parent power in our schools.

Parents have always been considered (and will always be considered) as potential candidates for our Rocketship Board, as we are always invested in individuals who have skills or a particular insight that are additive to our collective mission and impact in joining the Rocketship Board. Consequently, our DC and Nashville Boards already have parent members. In the 2019-20 school year, the Rocketship Public Schools Board is planning to add a parent to the Rocketship Board and consequently has been engaging in work to identify an ideal process to formally add one or more Rocketship parent members to the Rocketship Board. To that end, and to further integrate parent voices into our leadership, Rocketship is planning to add a parent to the Rocketship Board in the 2019-20 school year during our March 2020 meeting, and another parent member to our Board of Directors by the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year.

In initiating this conversation and contemplating this process, it has been paramount to the Rocketship Board that any Parent Member undergo a similar selection process as any other Board member candidate, and be treated equitably as a Board member in regards to their term limit and other formal structures. Thus, the parent Board members will serve as full, voting Board members, with all the same rights and responsibilities as all other Board members.

In each of our California schools, we already publicize the opportunity to be part of the School Site Council (SSC), and have a transparent process in place for selecting parents from those who are interested. The leaders of each SSC come together to represent their school on a Regional Advisory Council (RAC). We are

partnering with this existing leadership group to select parent candidates for the Rocketship Board of Directors. During the 2019-20 school year, we have actively shared with all Rocketship families information about this new process, along with an application form they could use to share why they were interested, and what experience and perspective they would bring to the Board. Based on the application forms, Rocketship selected several finalist candidates, who were then interviewed by members of three key constituencies within the organization: (1) the Regional Advisory Council, who used their cross-regional leadership perspective to provide meaningful feedback on the finalists, (2) members of Rocketship's Senior Leadership Team and Regional Leadership as appropriate, and (3) ultimately members of the Board of Directors's Board Nominating Committee, who then recommended to the Rocketship Board of Directors a final candidate for approval per their standard Board member appointment process. The Rocketship Board of Directors will vote in their March meeting to appoint this parent member to a two-year term, just as it votes to appoint any other member. Selection of parent Board members is being done with an eye toward ensuring we continue to broaden the diversity of perspectives and skills on the Board along a number of dimensions, just as is the case in selection of other Board members. While experience as a Rocketship parent brings a valuable perspective in and of itself, we seek to identify parents who also bring a range of other skills and perspectives to the Board, such as experience working in schools or in relevant roles in other organizations.

We plan to appoint this first parent Board member during our March 2020 meeting within the 2019-20 school year, and a second parent Board member during the 2020-21 school year. Each will serve as a full voting member of the Board of Directors, and will be invited to serve on the Regional Advisory Council, further strengthening the connection between these two key leadership bodies.

We are excited for this opportunity to continue to integrate parent voices into all aspects of our work and further elevate our core pillar of parent power.