

Rocketship Public Schools -- DC
MEETING MINUTES
September 15, 2020

Chair Joey Sloter called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. In attendance were Chair Joey Sloter, Melissa Martin, Barry Rosenthal, Jacque Patterson, Rena Johnson, Rose Waller, Keshia Battle, Zakiya Reid, Justin Bakewell, and Matthew Aaron. Other attendees included CEO Preston Smith, Cheye Calvo, Rico Wade, Josh Pacos, Joyanna Smith, and Tamika Joyner.

Board member, Simone Brown, was not in attendance. Tom Nida and MenSa Maa are no longer on the Board.

I. Consent Items

On a motion by Barry Rosenthal, seconded by Matthew Aaron, the Board voted 8-0 to approve the consent agenda which included minutes from the June 4th, 2020 Board meeting and August 4th special meeting, policies requiring approval, and reappointments to the Board. Policy approvals included the DC Open Meetings Policy, 2020-21 Employee Handbook, 2020-21 Family Handbook, DC Sexual Harassment Policy, Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying and Title IX Policy, Campus Access and Visitor Policy, Independent Education Evaluation Policy, Complaint Policy, and Retention and Acceleration Policy. The consent agenda also included reappointing Melissa Martin and Matthew Aaron to a new two-year term.

II./III. Mission Moment and Rocketship Schools Report

Josh Pacos, Director of Schools, presented a Mission Moment for the Board in order to remind us of the “why” behind the work and he also provided a brief schools update for RISE, RLP, and RIC.

III. Committee Reports

- A. The Achievement Committee met on September 8th. Melissa Martin, Chair of the Achievement Committee, took a few minutes to share a brief report.
- B. Justin Bakewell shared that the Business Committee also met on September 8th and shared a brief report.

IV./V. Rocketship DC Regional Update and OMA

Joyanna Smith, DC Regional Director, provided a brief overview of the work being done as a regional team regarding the Rallying Cry, the relevant objectives, and our leadership team has focused on team collaboration and regional cohesion. In addition, Tamika Joyner, Associate Director of Growth and Community Engagement, provided an update on our enrollment targets and conveyed that we are in a strong position across all three campuses. Then, Joyanna, Apoorva Katikeaneni, and Maya Sethi, General Counsel, led a discussion regarding the requirements under the DC Open Meetings Act which is effective on October 1st.

VII. Reopening Update/Discussion

Director of Schools, Josh Pacos, provided an update on our existing framework for distance learning, our progress against our First 30 goals, and the applicable criteria for re-opening physical schools.

VIII. Executive Director Hiring Process Update

Board member Rena Johnson provided a brief update on the Executive Director search and Preston Smith shared that he believed that the Executive Director would be selected by November 2020.

IX. Discussion

- SY20 Budget Updates: Keysha Chief Financial Officer, Keysha Bailey, provided a financial update for the DC Region. The SY 20-21 budget was presented for approval and Board member, Matt Aaron, moved to approve the budget and Justin Bakewell seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- Exhibits A and B: Covid Addendum to Policies and Procedures Manual between Rocketship and Social Justice: Rocketship General Counsel, Maya Sethi, provided an overview of the purpose of the proposed addendum and shared with the Board and that the addendum would be presented for approval at a later date.

X. Business Items

- A. Continuous Learning Plan: The continuous Learning Plan to be submitted to OSSE was voted on by the Board. Justin Bakewell moved and Jacque seconded the motion.
- B. Revised Organizational Chart: A revised organizational chart was also approved by the Board with Rena moving the motion, Justin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

XI. CEO Report

Rocketship Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Preston Smith, briefly provided an update on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goal and shared how it will now be an organizational goal and receive the resources and support that other organizational goals receive. In addition, Preston shared that the Rocketship National Board passed an Anti-Racist Resolution.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared on November 19, 2020