



SCHOOL of EXCELLENCE  
in EDUCATION

**Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting**

**Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 6:00pm**

1826 Basse Road, San Antonio, Texas 78213 (Location 2nd Floor)

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1. **Opening Prayer: Mrs. LaVergie Washington**
  
2. **Meeting Called to Order by Dr. Gooding at 6:08 p.m.**
  - i. Pledge of Allegiance & School Creed: **Said in Unison by all with Kelley students leading**
  - ii. Roll Call, Establishment of Quorum: **Yes**  
**Dr. Gooding: Present**  
**Mrs. Washington: Present**  
**Mr. Britton: Absent**

3. **Acknowledgement of Visitors to Speak: None**

4. **Campus Highlights**

- i. Secondary – Ms. Valarie Walker

**Mrs. Walker reported we are about to break for Thanksgiving and the first two six weeks grading periods are over. SEE will have twice the amount of students participating in dual credit next semester at St Phillips College. High school is getting ready to close out the first semester, so the students will be testing. It is basketball season. We finished volleyball and football seasons. There is a game here tonight. We are excited about where we are going academically. We are continuing to strengthen and develop our staff so we will be ready for the next semester.**

- ii. Athletics – Ms. Lois Butler:  
**Basketball starts tonight. We are playing Nixon Smiley. We are pushing grades, sometimes sports can be an incentive for students. We are working closely with Mrs. Walker. We are trying to focus on academics first.**

- iii. Elementary

- a. Ms. Cristen Martens – Walker Elementary - **Absent**

- b. Ms. Kathryn Zanin – Kelley Elementary:

**This past November, we had 133 students participate in the Pumpkin patch, 205 students competed in the first annual pumpkin chunking contest in grades 2 - 6. We fed over 750 parents, students, and teachers at the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. She could not have done this without the district effort. Ten families were given Thanksgiving baskets. HEB partnered with us and gave turkeys and pies. One family received a \$50 gift card. Students brought in canned food. Teachers had a data dig and training in A to Z to increase reading across the curriculum. We celebrated our veterans: Mr. Brown, Ms. Hollis, Mr. Grubbs, and Dr. Rios. They got a plaque and a gift card. The Folkloric group will present to the board tonight.**



SCHOOL of EXCELLENCE  
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5. **Governance – Sheilda Madkins**

- i. District Enrollment/Attendance Report – Ms. Debra Benton – **Reporting period 10/6 – 11/9 Enrollment to date: 826 – down 20 students, most to attend their home districts and discipline. ADA YTD = 95.56%. A 95% TDA is typical for schools. We would like a 96% average ADA rate. 356 no shows YTD. Walker had highest attendance rate. Kelley had the lowest attendance rate. The withdrawal rate varies, Walker has the highest rate this period. Historical data shows that we have a slight decline from the beginning of the school year.**
- ii. Discuss Revisions to the Student Handbook for 2016-2017 – Ms. Debra Benton – **Presented a hard copy of the changes to the board. In the handbook, there was information about the STEM campus added to the 16-17 student handbook. There was nothing in the handbook before that mentioned the STEM high school.**
- iii. Discuss Textbook Recycling – Ms. Debra Benton – **Hard copy handed to the board. SEE will recycle obsolete and out of date text materials.**
- iv. Discuss Compensation for Long-Term Substitutes in Subjects Other than Math & Science – Ms. April Short – **Request an amendment to the long-term substitutes section of the compensation plan that substitutes should have 20 hours in the subjects taught. To have consistency in the classroom, we want to add other substitutes so that the current subs can remain in place.**
- v. Discuss Refinancing of Tax-Exempt Charter School 2004-A Series Revenue Bonds – **Mr. Karl Knox – Made presentation on where we are on refinancing the 2004 series bonds. Mr. Knox reminded the board that they had given administration permission to try and refinance the 2004 bonds. We usually go to Standards and Poor’s to obtain an investment grade rating for the school. We were at BB stable rating in 2015. Based upon the data and where we are in enrollment, we were rated at the BB rating but with a negative outlook this time. This is directly in proportion to our continued slide in enrollment. There was concern that they would drop us to a BB minus rating. But, after talking to us, they left us at BB but with the negative outlook. As a result, when we had a phone call with Lewis Wilks, SEE bond advisor and DA Davidson, underwriters (they look for buyers of the bonds) because of the rating and the current market, Davidson says we will only have savings of approximately \$308,000 if we refinanced the 2004 bonds. Standards and Poor’s has the enrollment data for the past five years, along with the finance and academic reports. The biggest problem at SEE is the enrollment. There are more charter schools in San Antonio and the competition for students is fierce. Parents have more options in choosing schools for their students. US capital advisors suggest that we go to the larger national banks. There are banks that will take on that kind of debt. We sent to BB&T. We got it back today. For that kind of debt and the unstable enrollment, they would not entertain this request at this time. We did not hear back from Frost. Maybe at the end of the month. But, if we hear back from them before, maybe this will be good news. Frost is our depository contract bank. This is where all our TEA funds are deposited. Hopefully, Frost will work with us. If not, Capital advisors says that there are other banks that may help. The enrollment slide, may cause difficulty in finding a lender at the lower 4% range. Lewis Wilkes is available if**



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in EDUCATION

**we want to teleconference with him. Ms. Madkins indicated that Jubilee Academy (campus here and in the Valley) worked out a 74M dollar bond deal with these same people. But, they have the enrollment. We need to focus on our enrollment. Dr. Gooding indicated that we need to keep the BB rating, even if it is negative. Ms. Washington indicated we need to do more advertising. We have no money for this. Dr. Gooding wanted to know what our outlook is based upon where we are. Davidson says we should keep looking. It is worth it to refinance at a good rate if we can. Dr. Gooding remarked to keep looking if it was not going to hurt us.**

- vi. Discuss Possible Revisions to Special Education Policies – Ms. Penny Borkert – Absent Mrs. Madkins presented highlights

**Explained the difference between a special education student and a 504 student, location of policies on the district website**

- vii. Discuss Joining the A-Z Efficacy Study – Ms. Sheilda Madkins – **SEE would like to partner with Lazell, a research company doing research in reading. We provide our student data, and they will analyze the data three times a year and report back to us on our student progress. In addition, since we have first year teachers and high teacher turnover, we will need additional training. Lazell promises to provide additional training at no cost. On campus, we have the reading block which is one and a half hours at each campus. In addition, parents will get logons for their students to read at home. Follow up training will occur and principals will walk through classrooms to ensure the program is being implemented.**
- viii. Discuss 2016-2017 Governance Report – Ms. Sheilda Madkins – **Board members should have received their governance forms to complete and sign at the end of the governance training. If you have not signed, please do so tonight so that the governance report can be submitted to TEA.**

## 6. Financial Report – Karl Knox

- i. Monthly Financial Report – Month of October

### **Revenues and Expenditure recap**

**Total Revenues = \$783,000**

**Total Expenditures = \$744,000**

**Difference = \$38, 273 to fund balance before depreciation**

**Depreciation = \$36,413**

**Monthly to fund BAL = \$1,863**

### **Cash Flow Report – Summary Recap**

**Revenue = \$475,000**

**Withdrawal = \$690,000**

**Net Exchange = \$784,000 increase**



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**Total Gen Operating cash = \$1,267,000**

**Total Cash = \$2,770,000**

- ii. Investment Report: **TABLED**
  - a. Frost
  - b. BB&T
  - c. Wells Fargo
- iii. Budget/Grant Amendments: **TABLED**
- iv. FY 2017 Updated Depository Contract Form: **TEA asked us to send a copy of the depository contract signed by the board president. It is a confirmation that Frost Bank will continue to be the official general operating account for SEE.**

**7. Closed Session**

- i. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074, Discuss Employee Concerns – **No actions taken**

**8. Reconvene Open Session**

**9. Consideration of Action Items**

- i. Consideration to Approve Budget Amendment **TABLED**
- ii. Consideration to Approve Investment Reports **TABLED**
- iii. Consideration to Approve FY 2017 Updated Depository Contract: **Motioned and Approved**
- iv. Consideration to Approve Revisions to the Student Handbook for 2016-2017: **Motioned and Approved**
- v. Consideration to Approve Compensation for Long-Term Substitutes in Subjects Other than Math & Science, Effective September 1, 2016 – **Motioned and Approved for \$150.00/day**
- vi. Consideration to Approve Revisions to Special Education Policies – **Motioned and Approved**
- vii. Consideration to Approve Joining the A-Z Efficacy Study – **Motioned and Approved**
- viii. Consideration to Approve Actions Taken Regarding Employee Concerns: **TABLED**

**10. Consideration/Approval of Consent Items – Motioned and Approved**

Board Minutes from:

- September 17, 2015
- October 6, 2015
- November 10, 2015
- November 18, 2015
- November 21, 2015
- October 11, 2016

**11. Adjournment and Closing Prayer – Adjourned at 8:36: Prayer by Mrs. Washington**

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