

Thrive Academy Board Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2023

12:00pm

Present: Michael Tipton, Richard Hartley, Andrea O'Konski, Ethan Melancon (remote), Scott Gaudin (remote), Paul Sampson, Tia Williams, James Pounders, Melanie Holmes, Cody Haralson, Theron McGhee (remote), Leslie Austin

Agenda Item	Action
Opening Items	
Review Informational Items	12:07 Waiting on a quorum, so reviewed informational only (FYI) items while waiting on other attendees - These items below in red
Record Attendance	12:35 Attendance officially recorded as the final member for quorum joins the meeting
Call the Meeting to Order	A meeting of the board of Thrive Academy was called to order by Michael Tipton on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 12:35 pm in person and via Zoom.
Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting	12:35 R. Hartley motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. A. O'Konski seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously (no objections).
Finance/Operations	
FY23 Budget Update - J. Pounders	12:08 J. Pounders presented information on the budget and packet of reference documents. At the end of the fiscal year, the budget has been met with spending approximately 95% of the legislative authority. No cash reversions to the state general fund. For the upcoming year, there is a \$9.7 million budget (net-zero) comprised of 23% interagency transfers & MFP; state general fund for the rest; except for 1% from the education excellence fund. Also reviewed the handout of expenses. Currently working on contracts and internal budget at this time. There were no board member questions.
	12:14 End Financial Report
Program	
Executive Director Report - P. Sampson	12:14 P. Sampson Kids return to campus in 2 weeks. Reference documents provided. Focus for the 23-24 school year remains on the 3 pillars: 1) Staff Development/Retaining Quality Staff, 2) Student and Staff Enrichment, 3) Wraparound Services for Students. The school is currently fully staffed. Teach For America (TFA) worked with us a lot over the summer and is the future of our teaching staff. The school provided a lot of enrichment for all students over the summer either in Thrive's "June School" program or programs at Southern and in other states that were discussed at the last meeting. Also working on enhancing wraparound services for healthcare and meeting with Care South to see if they would work to create an on-campus healthcare center. M. Tipton told Mr. Sampson that this model could impact Medicare reimbursements to the school and to be aware that in some cases the site clinic becomes "primary care" for the student in order to provide services and that we don't want that to cause issues down the line. P. Sampson indicated we will vet all of this and that we are in the beginning stages of the inquiry and 1-2 years away from anything being fully up and running.
	12:24 End ED Report
Academic Report - M. Holmes	12:24 M. Holmes Summer has been busy with planning for the 23-24 school year. We are still waiting on middle school test scores, but high school test scores yielded gains in all areas. There will be a PD next week for all teachers with a jam-packed schedule of events/education. The following week there will be a staggered start to school between middle and high school to re-acclimate the students to the new year. Handouts were provided.
	12:28 End Academic Report

Residential Report - Cody Haralson	12:28 C. Haralson There has been a busy summer planning and staffing the residential team. 12 returning mentors and 24 new mentors. We are adding about 10 new clubs this year and that does not include athletics. This will add variety to what students can do/experience after school. Mentor professional development begins next week and we are preparing for student move-in days in 2 weeks.
	M. Tipton asked why there was so much turnover in mentors this year. Mr. Haralson let him know that we let some people go and some graduated, but we staffed up with more to provide more oversight and better services to our students. Mr. Sampson also indicated that to have a vision alignment for quality staff there had to be some "house cleaning" with the college students acting as mentors.
	12:32 End Residential Report
Other	
Clarifying Inquiries:	12:32 M. Tipton asked a question about the handbook for clarification pending the upcoming vote. Wanted to know why only in Section 4.11. P. Sampson indicated he wanted oversight of relationships where kids might be transported by Thrive employees. A. O'Konski asked if any requests had been received yet under handbook Section 3.8.? P. Sampson said there had not been.
Meeting Joined:	12:34 Ethan Melancon joins the meeting virtually
	12:38 Scott Gaudin joins the meeting virtually and added to roll after roll call
Items for Approval:	1) L. Austin reviewed Employee Handbook changes/updates for the board. M. Tipton asked for a motion on the Employee Handbook updates and R. Hartley made a motion to approve updates/changes. A. O'Konski seconded. There were no objections and the motion to approve proposed 23-24 changes/updates to the Employee Handbook was approved. 2) P. Sampson reviewed proposed changes/updates to the 23-24 Student Handbook. Namely, 24 hours are now required of parents for transportation change requests. M. Tipton asked for a motion to approve. E. Melancon made a motion to approve and it was seconded by S. Gaudin. There were no objections and the 23-24 Student Handbook updates/changes were approved. 3) the Pupil Progression Plan did not change but must be voted upon again to maintain. M. Tipton asked for a motion on the Pupil Progression Plan and R. Hartley made a motion to approve. A. O'Konski seconded. There were no objections and the motion to approve the Pupil Progression Plan was approved. A. O'Konski said that it had no material impact on the vote or the document, but a reminder to update the Pupil Progression Plan Table of Contents and have Bulletin 1566 review and make sure everyone signed it.
Public Comments:	12:42 No public comments
Executive Session:	No executive session
Closing Items	
Adjourn Meeting	M. Tipton called for a motion to adjourn. A. O'Konski moved to adjourn the meeting. R. Hartley seconded. There were no objections and the meeting was adjourned.
	12:43 Meeting Adjourned