



**Elan Academy Charter School Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 6 p.m.  
Elan Academy Charter School  
709 Park Blvd., New Orleans**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board:** Darren Patin, Kim Davis, Kitty Cook Ramsey, Todd Taylor, Roger Watkins, Dan Willeman  
**Absent:** David Hoover, Ashley Shabankareh  
**Staff:** Melanie Askew, School Leader  
**Guests:** Daphine Barnes, Angela Morton, Mathes Brierre, Dr. Anane Olatunji, Toni Pickens, OPSB

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Board Chair Darren Patin. A roll call was conducted, and it was acknowledged that we have a quorum of 6 board members at the meeting beginning.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Board Chair Darren Patin called for a motion to accept the December 19, 2019 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the meeting minutes. The motion passed with 6 Aye/Yes vote.

**ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA**

Board Chair Darren Patin asked for additions to today's meeting agenda. There being none, he called for a motion for approval of today's meeting agenda, and one was made and seconded. Motion passed with 6 AYE/Yes votes.

### **CONSIDERATION AND VOTE TO INCLUDE DR. ANANE OLATUNJI TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Dr. Anane Olatunji was introduced to the board, and he gave remarks about his interest in the board. He is a native New Orleanian, and lives on the West Bank. A motion to approve Dr. Olatunji was made and seconded. Motion passed with 6 AYE/Yes votes.**

### **CONSIDERATION AND VOTE TO INCLUDE DAPHINE BARNES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Daphine Barnes was introduced to the board, and she gave remarks about her interest in the board. She is a native New Orleanian, and lives on the West Bank. A motion to approve Daphine Barnes was made and seconded. Motion passed with 7 AYE/Yes votes.**

### **MODULAR CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

**Angela Morton, Architect, Mathes Brierre gave an overview of the modular units to be installed over the summer 2020. The RFPs have been released, and bids for different phases have started coming in. Six (6) classrooms will be added with two full bathrooms, a teacher restroom and a janitorial closet. The buildings will be raised, a canopy from the street to the modular and the building will be installed.**

### **HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**School Leader Askew gave an update: new NOLA PS leadership was voted in with Ethan Ashley serving as board president, and Woody Koppel as board vice president; NOLA PS is investing \$9M into teacher training; BESE superintendent is leaving at the end of the year; NOLA PS did a facility audit, we will make some repairs, but a major item of concern is the grease trap servicing in the kitchen; discussed staffing levels; provided upcoming school events; announced a recent donation from a major donor; informed us that Ms. Bergeron participated on an education podcast representing Elan Academy Charter School; discussed the current enrollment numbers and the numbers for 2020 – 21, per the results from the first round of OneAPP, new round starts soon and ends @ May 1st; and gave an update on performance testing, to date.**

**A motion to approve the Head of School and Academic Achievement Committee Reports was made and seconded. Motion passed with 8 AYE/Yes votes.**

### **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Board Chair Darren Patin gave a report that included:**

**Committee met with two potential board members, both will be introduced in the January 2020 meeting for a membership vote. Received a statement of interest from another potential board member, will meet with them in February 2020.**

**Chair attended a meeting where one of the topics was succession planning. The board will discuss this from the standpoint of school leadership and board leadership. This will be a major issue to develop and implement in short order.**

**Discussed the board retreat which will be lead by BES. A period being considered will be April or May 2020. Todd Taylor will send out a Doodle poll soon.**

**The parent engagement policy for board meeting is completed and will be voted on at the December 2019 meeting.**

**Discussed the push to identify and develop grant opportunities for the school for the myriad of needs, with Kitty Cook Ramsey coordinating the effort.**

**Discussed the move to the new building and the cost to implement a renewable energy source to help reduce our utility cost.**

**Discussed the LEA status as it pertains to 21/22, and we have a meeting planned with a**

**A review of the board agenda was completed by Erline Hertilien, BES. The items were shared with some of the information incorporated into today's agenda.**

**Board Chair Patin asked for a motion to accept the Governance Committee report. The motion was made and seconded. Motion passed with 8 AYE/Yes votes.**

### **FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Jenny Tabor gave the Finance Report, summarizing that we are in a healthy cash position through the year.**

**Board Chair Patin called for a motion to authorize the resolution for the implementation of a line of credit with Liberty Bank. The motion was made and seconded. Motion passed with 8 AYE/Yes votes.**

**Development Subcommittee discussion included a discussion of receipts to date; the consideration of moving to a different donor/constituent management product; closed out the Giving Tuesday effort; a discussion about the spring event being canceled; updating the donor database**

**Board Chair Patin called for a motion to accept the Finance and Development Committee report, and a motion was made and seconded. The motion passed with 8 AYE/Yes votes.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Had a discussion about transportation concern that came to the board's attention recently, and it seems to be mitigated. Melanie Askew has a source with the city that helps clear issues in the future.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**School Leader Askew introduced a "To Do List" she and Ms. Bergeron developed to share with each other and with the board.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Asked for a motion to adjourn, moved and seconded by Ashley Shabankareh. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**