



PALM BEACH
SCHOOL *for* AUTISM

**Palm Beach School for Autism, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
December 5, 2016**

Present:

Dawn D'Amato – Vice President
Jerry Zel - Board Member
Russ Feldman- Board Member
Steve Carroll – Board Member
Ann Levene-Eisenberg – Executive Director
Louisa Legato – Business Director
Allison Ballin - Associate Director of Education and Behavioral Services
Abby Girton – Director of Marketing and Development

Excused:

Randee Gabriel - President
Myra Mahoney - Board Member
Ruth Menor - Treasure

Call to Order: Dawn D'Amato called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

Board of Directors Approvals:

- Board members reviewed minutes from the September 19, 2016 board meeting. Jerry Zel made a motion to approve the minutes, Steve Carroll seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor.

Business Manager – Louisa Legato:

- None of the funds from the November 19th event were on the Financial Statement.
- Capital Outlay Funds were more than budgeted, but reiterated not to expect the same for next year.
- IDEA revenue is up from what they originally sent in the letter. When letter was received, it was confirmed of the additional monies.
- FEFP
- State Audit for 2015-2016 school year is in March.
- We have an active recruiting effort for certified teachers on going. Further, we are working closely with our current substitute teachers to pass their exams.
- Relationships are increasing with Lynn University, where we got several teachers for this school year, and hope to work more with FAU, USF, UCF and UNF in the future.
- It was suggested to attend the next CEC National Conference in Boston in April , have a recruitment table
- It was budgeted for a 25% increase in insurance premiums; however, it was only 5% for this year.

Executive Directors Report – Ann Levene-Eisenberg:

- Updated on Conference to be held February 11, 2017. Lynn University has given us the Wald Auditorium and the breakout rooms at no charge. Larry and Tracy of Wretchers & Jabberers are the Keynote. They have traveled the world and are very well known and inspiring.
- It was suggested to have a table set up for job information and applications.
- Update on 10,000 square foot expansion. Stated parking was an issue and they are working to resolve. One idea is to have “compact only” parking, which would allow more spaces. There are 160 spots total and we have 150 staff who park every day.
- Also considering contacting the church across the street about renting spaces during the day for additional parking. If that is a consideration, it would be a write-off, something to think about.

Associate Director of Education & Behavioral Services – Allison Ballin

- Updated on existing curriculum, Unique and Headsprout.
- Mr. Patrick has been the lead teacher on the Headsprout and it has been very successful.
- Another new technique that has been implemented is Mindful breathing. Students have adapted well and it is working.

Director of Marketing and Development – Abby Girton

- Comedy & Cocktails Events went very well. The Host Committee was very helpful. There were a lot of heavy hitters there from Wellington.
- We received two grants from very generous and supportive Foundations. Both grants are slated for technology.
- The next event is the Conference at Lynn University on Saturday, February 11, 2017.
- The Italian Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 11th and the Board members are encouraged to come.

Other Miscellaneous Announcements

- Update on Transition programs. South Tech has been great. Our Job Coaches have been teaching/prepping the students for Publix. We have opened a Coffee Cart “Coffee-N-Go”, like Starbucks, where they have been learning to run a coffee shop. They made enough tips to go to Starbucks, where they got the behind the scenes and had lunch.
- The new addition will have room to focus on a transition program to get students ready for next phase.
- Nicole DeFlorio is doing great things to get the students ready through job coaching programs and jobs.
- There were two physicians that walked through our facility and they were very happy and said that great things are happening here.
- Reminder that the Italian Dinner is coming up on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 5:30pm at Indian Spring Country Club, 11501 El Clair Ranch Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33437.

Future Meetings:

- March 6, 2017 4:00pm
- May 22, 2017 4:00pm

Adjournment:

- Jerry Zel made a motion to adjourn, Steve Carroll seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Sherri Gallagher