



PALM BEACH
SCHOOL *for* AUTISM

**Palm Beach School for Autism, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
May 22, 2017**

Present:

Randee Gabriel – President
Dawn D’Amato – Vice President
Ruth Menor - Treasure
Jerry Zel - Board Member
Russ Feldman- Board Member
Steve Carroll – Board Member
Myra Mahoney – 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

Call to Order: Randee Gabriel called the meeting to order at 4:10pm

Board of Directors Approvals:

- Board members reviewed minutes from the March 6, 2017 board meeting. Steve Carroll made a motion to approve the minutes, Jerry Zel seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor.
- Ann introduced June Aversano as a meeting guest. Ann has known her for 23 years, she started this school year as a volunteer and is a great supporter of the school. June attended the meeting to experience what the board meetings are about to see if she would be a candidate as a future board member.

Business Manager – Louisa Legato:

- A vote was brought to the table to continue to have Ken Kaneski as the Schools Accountant. Jerry Zel made a motion to approve, Steve Carroll seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor.
- It was stated DiCrescenzo & Company, P.A. has merged with Lanter, Leonardo & Levy. A vote was brought to the table to continue to have DiCrescenzo continue as the Schools Auditors. Russ Feldman made a motion to approve, Dawn D’Amato seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor.
- Attention was drawn to Page 5, noting the net income as of March 31st, there is money in the bank.
- It was stated April, May and June numbers are conservative, but monies will be added to the net income.
- It was stated a significant contingency was in reserve to pay the fines for the non-teachers in the classroom. It was stated the contingency was overestimated to be sure there was enough money available.

- The 2017-2018 Budget was presented, reviewed and questions were answered. Dawn D'Amato made a motion to approve the Budget, Ruth Menor seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor.

Executive Directors Report – Ann Levene-Eisenberg:

- Strategic Plan has not been reviewed in over 5 years. On July 14, 2017, we will be working on a new strategic plan for the next 5 years with the assistance of a professional facilitation team. The group to participate in the strategic plan will consist of executive staff, teachers, therapists, board members and families.
- One of our teachers, Ms. Karen, was honored by the District for her classroom Health & Wellness for the online movement and mindfulness program with her kids. Her kids got to perform in front of an audience to show what they have been doing.
- Ann and Alli presented to the Women's Shelter in how to effectively work with clients who have children with autism.
- Nicole, our Vocational Director, presented at Career Source to explain to local business leaders the advantages to hiring individuals with disabilities. There was tremendous positive feedback.
- Veterans for Autism has expressed interest in working with us. Talks are in the preliminary stage, but suggested: sensory activities; job experiences; mentors; etc.
- The building expansion is on hold until January, 2018.
- It was presented to purchase the house and 4 acre tract of land behind the playground. It will take some work: house needs to come down; gravel needs to put in; and decision on what to do with it. They were asking \$1.2 million, but it is only worth \$850.
- There will be no bussing for next year. The District raised their fees for Charter Schools, which will cost too much money. All of our families affected were contacted and were offered other alternatives in getting their child to school.
- It was announced that Ellen Sterns will be promoted to Director of Speech and Language. She is highly qualified and very excited about the position.
- There are two teachers that are not going to pass their tests and are moving to other positions. Most of the issues are with math and another teacher has agreed to tutor.
- SouthTech has been great for our students. There was a great article in the paper and on Facebook. Two of our students passed some of the Certs offered in their technology academy

Associate Director of Education & Behavioral Services – Allison Ballin

- We continue to use online curriculum, Unique, and renewing for all teachers, they are all using it.
- We received a technology grant and are working on devices for all students. We piloted an iPad Touch program for communication and it was very successful. We are also testing Chrome Books in 4 classrooms on self-paced curriculum.
- The mindful breathing technique introduced school wide is a wonderful success with all of our teachers and staff.
- We have a new dance program. One of our Teacher Assistants has a dance background and has been promoted and is now working with our music program.

- We received a grant from IBIS for Performing Arts and with the commitment from our families for our afternoon SNAP program, we have a dynamic music, drama and dance program.

Director of Marketing and Development – Abby Girton

- We had someone break into our shed and stole our PE equipment. We put the word out and received a large donation to cover the cost to replace everything.
- We had a number of outside events that raised a great deal of money for us. With these events, plus our own events: Comedy & Cocktails; Italian Dinner and the Conference we raised the most we have raised in recent years.
- Our Upcoming Events: Comedy & Cocktails on November 17th at 7:30pm at the Kravis Center with Bobby Collins, the comedian; Golf Tournament at Winston Trails on April 7th, more details to follow; Italian Dinner, date TBD.
- At the end of Teacher Appreciation week, we received a large thank you card signed by all teachers, assistants and therapists along with a basket of goodies.

Other Miscellaneous Announcements

- It was suggested to have June Aversano join our Board and was asked what we need to do to add her. It was asked that she put together a biography and put in writing what she can bring if becoming a board member. After reviewing her information and discussions with her to review by-laws, etc., a decision will be made.

- **Future Meetings:**

September 25, 2017 @ 4:00pm
December 4, 2017 @ 4:00pm
March 5, 2018 @ 4:00pm
May 21, 2018 @ 4pm

Adjournment:

- Jerry Zel made a motion to adjourn, Steve Carroll seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

Respectfully submitted: Sherri Gallagher