



**Palm Beach School for Autism, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 9, 2020**

**Present:** Dawn D'Amato – Vice President  
Jerry Zel - Board Member  
June Aversano – Board Member  
Russ Feldman- Board Member  
Ann Levene-Eisenberg – Executive Director  
Louisa Legato – Business Director  
Allison Ballin - Associate Director

**Absent:** Randee Gabriel – President  
Steve Carroll – Board Member

**Call to Order:** Dawn D'Amato called the meeting to order at 4:06pm

**Board of Directors Approvals:**

- Board members reviewed the minutes from the December 2, 2019 board meeting. Jerry Zel made a motion to approve the minutes, June Aversano seconded the motion and all board members voted in favor.

**Business Manager – Louisa Legato:**

- It was stated we have a stable surplus. Miscellaneous questions were asked about the financials, discussions took place and questions answered.

**Executive Directors Report – Ann Levene-Eisenberg:**

- It was stated the partnership with Frenchman's Creek in Jupiter started in January. There are 4 Project Next students working in their laundry and restaurant areas. They are doing great and individuals from the Frenchman's community are asking lots of questions and getting to know our program.
- It was stated the Frenchman's partnership has prompted the Wycliffe County Club to get our students more involved in their facilities, which we are targeting to start Summer School.
- It was stated we are finishing up with Title 1 on June 30, 2020 and we will not be eligible in the 2020-2021 School Year due to different parameters of the program. Since there will be no Title 1 monies, budgeting for the programs it supports will be tight next year.
- It was stated our armed security guard onsite is paid by the Palm Beach County School District from bell-to-bell. The board approved to pay to have the armed security guard on premise at all times the students are on campus, which includes: beforecare (7:30-8am); and aftercare (4-5:30pm).
- It was stated since Ruth Menor resigned her position, another board member needed to be assigned the Treasurer position. It was presented to Steve Carroll; however, since Steve wasn't at the meeting to accept or deny, it will be presented, discussed and, voted on at next board meeting.

- It was stated we are in the process of applying to become a Vocational Rehabilitation Vendor.
- It was stated we have made a number of security upgrades that was proposed to us by the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office to the exterior and interior of the building.
- It was stated Ann and a few others were attending the Visions Conference again this year. They were selected to present again and will discuss the success in Project Next and how they can build a similar program in their communities.
- It was stated Grasford Smith was asked to be a member of our board. He indicated he is interested in the Palm Beach School for Autism and becoming a board member, but just switched firms and is unable to accept at this time.
- It was stated our big fundraiser "Italian Dinner" is sold-out and scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2020.
- It was stated one of our supporters held her annual luncheon to benefit the Palm Beach School for Autism. It was a huge success and they donated approximately \$11,000.

**Associate Director – Allison Ballin**

- It was stated Title 1 approved monies to be used for mental health therapists. Our plan is to include our mental health therapists for the budget year 2020-2021.
- It was stated our teaching staff is sharing success with our curriculums: Reading A-Z; Unique; and Freckle.
- It was stated FSAA testing was going on and while the teachers were busy with that, our assistants are really stepping up and helping with the lesson plans and recording the student goals.
- It was stated Ann, Alli and Juliet attended a conference for litigation addressing mental health across the county, which was great and very informative.

**Other Miscellaneous Announcement:**

- It was stated our Host Committee was helping plan a "Prom" for our graduates.
- It was stated it would be nice if a letter came from the board to the staff (2 letters: one for teachers; and one for assistants) during Teacher Appreciation Week, thanking them for all their hard work.
- It was stated Summer School begins on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> and ends Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, with no Fridays.
- It was stated the 2020-2021 School Year starts on Monday, August 10, 2020.
- It was stated our High School Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and Sherri will send emails to all board members about specifics.
- **Future Board Meeting Dates:**
  - May 18, 2020 @ 4pm
  - September 21, 2020 @ 4pm
  - December 7, 2020 @ 4pm

**Adjournment:**

- Jerry Zel made a motion to adjourn, June Aversano seconded the motion and all board members were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted: Sherri Gallagher

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4/8/2020