



**Palm Beach School for Autism, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
December 2, 2019**

Present:

Randee Gabriel – President
Dawn D’Amato – Vice President
Jerry Zel - Board Member
June Aversano – Board Member
Russ Feldman- Board Member
Steve Carroll – Board Member
Ann Levene-Eisenberg – Executive Director
Louisa Legato – Business Director
Allison Ballin - Associate Director

Absent: None

Call to Order: Randee Gabriel called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

Board of Directors Approvals:

- Board members reviewed the minutes from the September 23, 2019 board meeting. Steve Carroll made a motion to approve the minutes, Russ Feldman seconded the motion and all board members voted in favor.

Business Manager – Louisa Legato:

- It was stated we were ahead in IDEA monies than the budget, mostly because the count was higher and we budgeted less. The Financial Audit was completed by the School District and we did well.

Executive Directors Report – Ann Levene-Eisenberg:

- It was stated our teachers were eligible for Best and Brightest again this year and a breakdown of the allocations were presented. A motion was made by Russ Feldman to accept, award and distribute the monies as it was stated on the allocation proposal presented, June Aversano seconded the motion and all board members voted in favor.
- Our Comedy & Cocktails event was bigger and more successful than last year. We raised enough money to buy another van in the Spring as well as funds for additional security equipment, computers and another firewall. A motion was made by Steve Carroll to approve the use of the monies raised for security, Dawn D’Amato seconded the motion and all board members voted in favor.
- It was stated one of the Board Members, Ruth Menor, has resigned her board position. A search is on for a replacement, which Ann has someone in mind. This person already knows the school and attends some of our events. Ann is having lunch with the candidate soon to discuss the board position in greater detail.
- It was stated we have again received a major grant from the Nias Foundation. This allows us to send our teachers, therapist and executive staff to the CARD Conference. It will also fund some additional safety and security.
- It was stated Frenchman’s Creek Country Club is on-board for our Project Next students to work on-site. As of this time, not all details of specific jobs have been determined.

- It was stated we are working with Spere Security on a new contract. This will be paid for by the Palm Beach County School District security monies allotment. As of now, by law, they have to cover school days, bell-to-bell, which is 8:15am to 3:15pm; however, it is a concern because there is no security here at all times the students are here. A motion was made to allow Ann, Executive Director, to negotiate and sign an additional contract that has a security guard here from 7:30 to 8:15am for beforecare until 3:15 to 5:30pm for aftercare. Jerry Zel made a motion to accept, Steve Carroll seconded and all board members voted in favor.
- It was stated we are a Title 1 school again, which gives monies for mental health therapists, academic tutoring, curriculum and parent/teacher training & supplies.
- It was stated we have to update our Conflict of Interest. A copy was given to all board members, it was reviewed, questions answered and a motion was made by Russ Feldman to approve all changes. It was seconded by Steve Carroll and all board members voted in favor.
- It was asked by the Executive Director for a salary increase of 10% for her and the Associate Director, Allison Ballin. After discussions, a motion was made by Dawn D'Amato to approve the 10% increase for both Executive Director and Associate Director effective January 1, 2020, Jerry Zell seconded and all board members voted in favor. It was also stated by the board members to select a committee: Steve Carroll, Russ Feldman and June Aversano; to develop a plan for incremental increases for executive staff members.

Associate Director - Allison Ballin

- It was re-stated that we are a Title 1 school again. We have hired 2 licensed mental health therapists who are screening to identify the students who need services. They are working 20 hours per week. It was mentioned that mental health is not being added to the IEP's. It was also stated we hired a person for reading. She has volunteered for us for 6 years and we are now paying her for screening and implementing a reading plan for students identified. It was stated as long as we have Title 1 monies, we can continue these programs.
- It was stated we had to increase our Unique online access. Title 1 monies were used to renew and upgrade.
- It was stated we have 2 speakers coming in for our next teacher work day. He is an excellent motivator to help staff to engage with students. He has been in before and the staff have been very responsive.
- It was stated we are opening up Project Next for 4 to 5 spots in the 2020-21 school year for students who need job support and have deferred graduation.

Other Miscellaneous Announcement:

- It was stated our Italian Dinner will be held March 14, 2020 at Wycliffe Country Club, so mark your calendars.
- **Future Board Meeting Dates:**
 - March 9, 2020 @ 4:00pm
 - 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 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted: Sherri Gallagher