



**Palm Beach School for Autism, Inc.
Virtual Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
September 21, 2020**

Present: Rande 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 of Education and Behavioral Services

Special Guest: Damien Hunte – Potential New Board Member

Call to Order: Rande Gabriel called the meeting to order at 4:05pm

Board of Directors Approvals:

- Board members reviewed the minutes from the June 8, 2020 board meeting. Jerry Zel made a motion to approve the minutes, June Aversano seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor.

Business Manager – Louisa Legato:

- Introduced Auditor, Samara Johnson and Alex Leonardo from Lanter, Leonardo & DiCrescenzo, LLC.
- Alex and Samara reviewed the audit findings and answered questions. No findings, clean opinion and no obstacles reported and commented that the school is in a great financial position.
- Steve Carroll made a motion to approve the audit report, Jerry Zel seconded the motion and all board members voted in favor.
- It was stated to re-hire the audit firm, Lanter, Leonardo & DiCrescenzo for the 2020-2021 Audit. A motion was made by Steve Carroll, Dawn D’Amato seconded the motion and all board members voted in favor.
- Reviewed and discussed the amended 2019-2020 budget, which was adjusted to reflect actual figures at year-end and answered questions.
- A motion was made by Dawn D’Amato to approve the amended 2019-2020 budget, seconded by Russ Feldman and all board members voted in favor.
- Due to the board meeting being virtual, the signature page will be sent for e-signatures for the Amended Budget.

Executive Directors Report – Ann Eisenberg:

- It was stated the second round of the student re-entry was launched and it went amazing. The first round an estimated 80 students returned on campus and 90 students on the second round. All students are wearing masks with the exception of a few and we are working with them individually.
- It was stated we have a total of 371 registered students. The staff are doing an amazing job simultaneously teaching virtual and on-campus.
- It was stated we only lost one teacher who resigned due to COVID-19.
- It was stated we have every PPE supply available to them and are constantly wiping down door handles, classrooms, playgrounds, etc.
- It was stated we are a closed campus with only staff and students onsite. SLPs/OTs/PT have been limited on-campus as well, but continue to Zoom and parents have been great about it.
- It was stated we are working with the Health Department on protocols with our nurse as well.
- It was stated we continue to receive calls from families for enrollment.
- It was stated our Project Next students are not going off-campus at this time because of health and safety reasons. There is a lot going on and they are staying very busy.
- It was stated because of Alli's background and forethought, she knew exactly what to do and has done an excellent job setting up, teaching and supporting our staff. Her leadership and determination have been incredible.
- It was stated we have adopted the Threat Assessment Protocols from the Palm Beach County School District. We follow those protocols in the event of a threat.
- It was stated the Governor of Florida approved an increase in teacher salaries. It was stated 80% of the funding had to be used for beginning teachers and the remaining 20% on veteran teachers. After much deliberation, it was requested to bring all of our certified teachers up to the new minimum; those with a master's degree an additional \$3,000; and those veteran teachers with 5 or more years' with PBSFA, they would receive an additional 10% increase. A motion was made by Jerry Zel to accept this pay scale, seconded by June Aversano and all board members voted in favor.

Associate Director – Allison Ballin

- It was stated how much Ann's leadership and vision played during the COVID-19 changes. She has been relentless in making sure everything and everyone have what they need.
- It was stated we are using three different curriculums to make sure everyone has what they need. For those families who cannot participate online, we are working with them to set up different avenues to get the work to the students, so no one is left behind.
- It was stated all staff received additional training during this time to help with virtual leaning.

Other Miscellaneous Announcements

- It was stated by Randee and the entire board on the outstanding job administration and staff have done through this tough time.

- Louisa stated as being a parent, how outstanding the entire staff has been with setting up the programs to enable our students to continue to learn from home.
- A new board member, Damien Hunte, was introduced. He spoke to the board and after his comments, questions were asked and answered. A motion was made by Jerry Zel to accept Damien as a new board member, seconded by June Aversano and all board members were in favor.

Adjournment:

- Steve Carroll made a motion to adjourn, June Aversano seconded the motion and all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted: Sherri Gallagher

Danell Gabriel