



**Palm Beach School for Autism, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 11, 2023**

**Present:** Randee Gabriel – President  
Damien Hunte – Vice President  
Russ Feldman- Board Member  
John Spruance – Board Member  
June Aversano – Board Member  
Steve Carroll – Treasurer (via Zoom)  
Ann Levene-Eisenberg – Executive Director  
Allison Ballin - Associate Director of Education and Behavioral Services  
Louisa Legato – Business Director (via Zoom)  
Jerry Zel – Board Member

**Guest(s):** Nicole DeFlorio  
Laurie Marino  
PJ D'Aoust

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

**Board of Directors Approvals:**

- Board members reviewed the minutes from the September 18, 2023 Board Meeting. Steve Carroll made a motion to approve the minutes, Russ Feldman seconded and all board members voted in favor.
- It was stated by Randee Gabriel, Board President, we had quorum present.

**Business Director – Louisa Legato:**

- Louisa supplied us with a Profit & Loss by Class from July through September 2023, a Balance Sheet by Class as of October 31, 2023 and a FY24 Referendum Expenditure Plan. Louisa read us the balances of the bank accounts with TD Bank and UBS. She noted that we are in a strong financial position as of October 2023 with a \$179,000 surplus. A motion was made by Steve Carroll and John Spruance second the motion, and all board members voted in favor to accept the current Referendum Expenditure Plan with the addition of the reading specialist with salary and benefits reimbursed.

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**Executive Director – Ann Levene-Eisenberg:**

- It was stated that we have \$306,000 from an Esser Grant, and the Building Hope Grant Manager advised us we could use it for teacher assistants who work with students with learning loss.
- It was stated that we received weighted funding from Referendum and some interest. We are due more in interest than what we received. As a result, the Arnold Law firm is representing our school to sue the Palm Beach School District for the additional interest. A motion was made by Damien Hunte and seconded by June Aversano for the Arnold Law Firm to proceed to continue with the lawsuit and all board members voted in favor.
- It was stated that Kathleen Schoenberg, ESQ, was present via the telephone. Ann Eisenberg stated that with Kathleen Schoenberg and PJ D'Aoust as a volunteer, they are working on the Charter Application for St Lucie County. Kathleen advised that they would be replicating PB School for Autism in St Lucie County as a DBA under Palm Beach School for Autism Inc.
- It was stated that Palm Beach School for Autism would be the Applicant & the Charter Owner. She also stated that we can set up an advisory board for the local representation. It was stated that we would meet

in St Lucie County 2x a year for an In person Board Meeting. The advisory board would get authority for certain tasks.

- It was stated that we would start with Pre k to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. A motion was made by John Spruance and seconded by Damien Hunte to vote on a name for the St Lucie County School. The name to be voted on is “Treasure Coast School for Autism”. All board members voted in favor.
- A motion was made by Jerry Zel and seconded by Steve Carroll to vote to approve the submission of an application in February 2024 to St Lucie County after Kathleen Shoenberg reviews the application. All board members voted in favor.
- It was stated that UKG Healthcare Software Co has invited Ann Eisenberg, Patrick Pierre, Abby Shorr and Amanda Maggiiore to attend a Leadership Conference in Boston on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 to promote and sell our Exit 8480 Gift Boxes.
- It was stated that if we give our teachers a 7% salary increase, that it would cost us \$50,000 out of our operating budget. If we do a 5% increase, it would cost \$6,000 out of our operating budget. Referendum stipend will stay the same. A motion was made by Jerry Zel and seconded by Russ Feldman to vote on a 5% Salary increase for the teachers and to leave the referendum money stable. All board members voted in favor.

### **Associate Director – Alli Ballin:**

- It was stated that she and Ann Eisenberg are being given free Diversity Training from Bulding Hope..
- It was stated that we purchased I-Ready for Math and Reading from the Supplemental School Improvement Grant and will be used starting in January 2024.
- It was stated that Cara Herman is the Reading Specialist for K-2 , and 3-5 Gen Ed.
- It was stated that Alexis Bastidas is the new Testing Coordinator.
- It was stated we are still looking to hire Teachers and Assistants.

### **Family Services Director-Nicole DeFlorio:**

- It was stated that Nicole DeFlorio has 3 workshops set up to date to discuss Palm Tran Connections, Social Security and Guardianship with the parents.
- It was stated that Nicole DeFlorio holds monthly “Parent Chats” in the Cafe.
- It was stated that almost all classrooms get visited monthly by Bonafide Therapy Dogs.
- It was stated that our Coach has received equipment for soccer, pickleball and track and field. Job Coach Raven is assisting with the coordination of these sports.
- It was stated that Nicole DeFlorio assists the families with Crisis Letters, Social Security Applications, APD applications and Appeals Assistance.

### **Other Announcements – Randee Gabriel:**

- It was stated the remaining future board meetings for 2023-2024 school year and they were approved:
  - \*Regular Board Meeting – March 4, 2024 @ 4pm (virtual)
  - \*Regular Board Meeting – May 6, 2024 @ 4pm (on-campus)
- It was stated the Comedy & Cocktails Fundraising Event will be held on March 2, 2024 at Wycliffe County Club.

### **Adjournment:**

- Jerry Zel made a motion to adjourn, John Spruance seconded and all board members voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted: Laurie Marino

