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Mission Statement:

*Create a safe, positive environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and
a thirst for discovery where students and staff succeed through exceptional programs*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 17, 2021 AT BANNING LEWIS RANCH ACADEMY at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

1.1. Heather Pacheco called to order at 6:02pm

2. Roll Call

2.1. Board Members: Deann Barnett, Todd Blum, Krisell Creager-Lumpkins, Scott Lewis, Matthew Pacheco, Alexandra Tomei, Heather Zambrano

3. Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance

4. Reading of the Mission Statement

4.1. Heather Zambrano read the mission statement

5. Approval of Agenda

5.1. Krisell Creager-Lumpkins motioned to approve the agenda to add an action item for Moody's refi (added as action item 15.1) and to move 10.2 program hi-light to September BOD meeting, Matthew Pacheco 2ndd

5.2. All vote yes, motion carries

6. Approval of the Minutes

6.1. Approval of the previous Regular Meeting Minutes July 20, 2021

6.1.1. Matthew Pacheco motioned to approve the agenda, Todd Blum 2ndd

6.1.2. All vote yes, motion carries

6.2. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes, July 29, 2021

6.2.1. Matthew Pacheco motioned to approve the agenda, Todd Blum 2ndd

6.2.2. All vote yes, motion carries

6.3. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2021

6.3.1. Matthew Pacheco motioned to approve the agenda, Todd Blum 2ndd

6.3.2. All vote yes, motion carries

7. Positive Observations

7.1. Alexandra Tomei observed how excited kids are to be back in session at school, back to clamoring at the door.

7.2. Matthew Pacheco gave special recognition to Jenna Bell who was recognized by D49 as an outstanding member of our team. She has made many valuable contributions to the team and it was wonderful to see it acknowledged

- 7.3. Todd Blum acknowledged the Stallion Team email the BOD got and the incredible job Mr. Larson and staff have done to create that time
- 7.4. Deann Barnett enjoys seeing the building alive and seeing school open again and everyone alive
- 7.5. Matthew Pacheco wanted to acknowledge how many people are present for the BOD meeting and it is exciting to see the involvement of the community.

8. Public Comment - *Speakers are limited to 3 minutes and must sign in at the beginning of the meeting.*

8.1. Matthew A Pyles signed in for public comment on CRT

8.1.1. Wanted to touch on the CRT agenda that is being pushed in the education system. Retired military. Should stick to focusing on education of the children and the school system. Hi-lighted the civil rights movement. Watching history replay itself including Afghanistan and CRT. Should leave politics outside of the school systems and make sure we talk to kids about character.

8.2. Hollie Montano signed in for public comment on CRT

8.2.1. Not sure if we want to teach our kids that skin color matters, racism is everywhere, dialogue is evil, while silence is violence, math and science is only to keep whites in power. Let's teach how we always have – every race matters. One nation under God – this will divide us. We need to unite and fight for our children. Kids need to be taught to work hard. Every race and color is valued and treated with respect.

8.3. Barbara Miller signed in for public comment on CRT

8.3.1. Thank you to teachers, educators, and administrators for all they do. I have 3 grandchildren who are in this school system at Banning Lewis. We have tried to teach our children that they are important no matter what others feel about them. We are teaching them that they can do and be anything they want – they are not held back by the color of their skin. No one owes them anything and they don't owe anyone anything. My great grandmother was a slave and I do not agree with that, and I don't agree with children being made to feel bad about things they had nothing to do with. CRT in its form today is not the way it should be done and it does not promote unity and equality. We must teach respect and honoring each other, in the home first. Schools are secondary affirming. Teach our kids the foundational principles of reading, writing, math and history. Self-esteem is powerful – choose whether to build it up or tear it down. We do not want any children to think they are victims or are responsible for anything done in the past. We trust in God who loves all and created all – it would be a tragedy to forget our history but it would be also a tragedy to lay the responsibility for history on the shoulders of others who were not responsible. Let our children grow together, play together, and learn good things together. Perhaps they will teach us all about true unity. A good intent and not a well thought out process does not make for a perfect solution.

8.4. Tony Grudo signed in for public comment on CRT

8.4.1. Thank you for the time you spend and commitment away for your families (to BOD) and to the teachers in this room. I agree with the D49 decision to oppose teaching CRT. We need to teach factual history about racism and inequality in the American history. CRT has a singular world view restricting freedom of speech to allow only 1 point of view. It affects all aspects of education and seeks to eliminate standardized testing from the schools. D49 does not prohibit freedom of speech from the community. CRT should not be a part of curriculum or training in this community.

9. Standing Committee Reports *Speakers are limited to 10 minutes when presenting*
Finance Committee Report Chair: Matthew Pacheco

- 9.1. Matthew Pacheco reported that the audit is being finished for the year
 - 9.1.1. 99% of revenues received and 97% of budget
- 9.2. General Fund finishing at 730,000 compared to budget of 438,000 (in pre-audit)
 - 9.2.1. Increase in funds from when the budget was originally passed
- 9.3. Want to work to bring on some other stakeholders from BLA community (SAC or 2 additional BOD members to draw more upfront questions and increased insight)
- 9.4. ACCEL introduced Patty Ashley to be our main contact to be our contact on all things budget.
- 9.5. Kristen LaMay reported on financials and shared current status of financials.
- 9.6. Paid at 7,843 per pupil for 1469 students
- 9.7. Check for the Charter League has been drafted but not sent as that conversation is still ongoing, 13k is the total for that check (on July financial)
- 9.8. Bond liquidity question – housed in the enterprise fund (Fund 52)
- 9.9. Adjustment going to the auditor that will eliminate negative numbers on the health insurance lines
- 9.10. Primarily on supply lines and curriculum
- 9.11. Budgeted 30k in impact aid – got 60k last year.

10. Program Highlight

- 10.1. BLA Charter Review-Mr. Franko
 - 10.1.1. Mr. Franko introduced Ms. Vidovich and Ms. Cummings who are also here to represent D49.
 - 10.1.2. Copies of the process for the Charter School Review Application 2022 were provided as well as discussed by D49.
 - 10.1.3. Charter does not expire until 2037; 5 year review of the charter is an ongoing process per statutes
 - 10.1.4. Take a critical look at operations, finance, performance and academic curriculum of the school
 - 10.1.5. Look at areas that D49 and the BOD wanted to see improvements
 - 10.1.6. Will not be using the Charter School Institute – the team introduced will be doing the review
 - 10.1.7. Submissions requested from the BOD / administration
 - 10.1.7.1. Due on 9/15 – elements listed in part one of the document presented
 - 10.1.7.2. 9/22 is scheduled tentatively for the on site review (both campuses all in one day) with the exception of interviews that cannot be gotten to due to any scheduling conflicts (BOD interviews likely done on this day as well)
 - 10.1.7.2.1. Section 10 is the BOD responsibility for interviews
 - 10.1.7.3. Due 12/1 charter review application data collection of student performance
 - 10.1.8. Want to get in front of the D49 BOE in the January Work Session
 - 10.1.9. Will likely come back to our BOD to request and approve an extension for 2/10 that exceeds the statute for a 2/1 resolution.
 - 10.1.10. 1/26/22 will present the process and findings to the D49 BOE
 - 10.1.11. 2/10 will be community comment, present findings, and BOE vote
 - 10.1.12. Happy to answer questions at any time
- 10.2. BLA Staff Onboarding Process-Dr. Weyman
 - 10.2.1. Postponed to next month per agenda amendment
- 10.3. Closing Gaps Presentation-Dr. Weyman
 - 10.3.1. First of several presentations over the year
 - 10.3.2. Major goals post 20/21 school year is to identify learning gaps and close those gaps
 - 10.3.3. Provided information on MTSS (multi-tiered systems of support) – 2 new MTSS coordinators (Jenna Bell and Erin Altmann, one at each campus)

- 10.3.4. Cassie Prosch reported on gaps at the elementary, primarily focused on reading
 - 10.3.4.1. Reported on PLC model, professional learning communities
 - 10.3.4.2. Here's what, so what, and now what
 - 10.3.4.3. Here's what – 170 students in K-3 on read plans. 83% of students have taken BOY testing thus far. 32% of students tested are below, 68% are at or above.
 - 10.3.4.4. So what – summer learning loss (normal) but also pandemic learning loss. By the end of 3rd grade, 74% of struggling readers won't ever catch up – this is incredibly important
 - 10.3.4.5. Now what – series of steps across K-12 to put systems in place
 - 10.3.4.5.1. PDSA (Plan, Do, Study, Act) – in year 1 of a 2 year implementation plan
 - 10.3.4.5.2. MTSS (goes hand in hand with PDSA) to identify skill gaps and track students level of need
 - 10.3.4.5.3. Implementation of Grade Level and Staff PLC (lateral and vertical teams)
 - 10.3.4.5.4. Teacher Observations (create evaluation systems and calibrate across admin teams)
- 10.3.5. Rick Dahlman reported on gaps at the middle school (mathematics & reading)
 - 10.3.5.1. STAR Renaissance report
 - 10.3.5.2. Here's what – data went back 3 years for informational. 88-90% of students have taken assessments. 6th - 43% need intervention in math, 33% in ELA, 7th – 24% need intervention in math, 25% in ELA, 8th – 16% of students need intervention in math, 28% in ELA
 - 10.3.5.3. So what – pandemic and summer learning loss. Increasing population over the years – take students in who have not been former BLA students
 - 10.3.5.4. Now what – series of steps across K-12 to put systems in place
 - 10.3.5.4.1. MTSS (working on Tier 1 plus strategies)
 - 10.3.5.4.2. Think CERCA Grading Tables (common writing expectations – Claim, Evidence Reasoning, Counter Claim, Audience) used across all content areas
 - 10.3.5.4.3. Implementation of Staff PLC (grade level teams and collaboration as well as vertical content areas)
 - 10.3.5.4.4. Teacher Observations (evaluation system discussed above)
 - 10.3.5.5. Questions if families will be notified if their student enters into these intervention groups – yes they will be informed and at the prep students will be informed on their own data and taught to speak to their own data and performance
 - 10.3.5.6. Academic AP to lead the 9-12 piece – CERCA is being done this week. Strategic planning around teacher time (teachers graded 180 essays in 2 days). Same data available for 9-12. Renaissance caps out at 10th grade – after that (or earlier high performers), metric needs to be shifted (PSAT, SAT, etc).
- 10.3.6. 2 teacher initiated follow ups with an observer – can do more, this is a baseline
- 10.3.7. Question on trend going the wrong way at some grade levels – how much do we attribute this to the pandemic?
 - 10.3.7.1. Leadership turn over, clear protocol and procedures, and pandemic related

11. Sanctioned Organizations - Speakers are limited to 3 minutes when presenting in person

- 11.1. PTO – has a board! Email sent & new president was there to present (Erika Krider) still transitioning in new roles – hectic with on and off boarding. Working on continuing restaurant nights

(8/31 at Panera). Planning Fun Run week with Coach Brooks. Membership is low. Next PTO meeting is Wens Sept 1st at 6:30pm.

- 11.2. BLA Booster Club – actively working on a log proposal to adorn buildings with spirit and culture. Emailed report.
- 11.3. Boy Scout Troop 228 - no email sent yet, but back into meeting weekly at the prep
- 11.4. Cub Scout Pack 228 – email sent
- 11.5. Civil Air Patrol – no email sent yet
- 11.6. Girl Scout Troop – no email sent yet, working on getting a new leader and currently paused.

12. **BLAF, Fundraising and Marketing Updates** *Speakers are limited to 10 minutes when presenting*

- 12.1. Representative: Heather Zambrano
 - 12.1.1. 1737 current confirmed students; waitlist for K-6. 7-12 is involving regular collaboration on adding additional students to not over cap teachers but allow additional enrollment when possible
 - 12.1.2. Not slowing down on exposure and pipeline building – continue build the waitlist and enrollment

13. **BLA Admin Reports** *Speakers are limited to 10 minutes when presenting*

- 13.1. Supporting documentation BLA Admin Report
- 13.2. Email report sent – changed format slightly
 - 13.2.1. Leanne reported on important dates and strategic planning updates
 - 13.2.2. UIP meeting on Thursday to ensure focus on strategic plan
 - 13.2.3. Many new hires, still hiring for other positions. All open classrooms are covered, but still needs to make sure we are hiring to fill those open positions (alternative licensure programming)
 - 13.2.4. Celebrations from Ranch and prep
 - 13.2.5. Operations updates – closely following COVID-19 protocols. New messaging developed that aligns infection / vaccination / how to work a safe environment in BLA. Will be sent out in the next couple of days.
 - 13.2.6. Update on ESSR 3 funds – will know by end of the week what that allotment is. 1 month turn around from today to resubmit our spending plan for ESSR3.
 - 13.2.7. Several staff members received a stipend for over 1k for recruitment bonuses.
 - 13.2.8. More than 5 (or more) that are taking advantage of tuition reimbursement program Accel offers
 - 13.2.9. Updated version of Accel handbook was received today by Dr. Weyman – will be sent tomorrow (current year Accel employee handbook)
 - 13.2.9.1. No timeline for signing at this time; will be able to provide feedback and Q&A (1 week sufficient)

14. **Discussion Items**

- 14.1. Moody's Refinancing
 - 14.1.1. Deann Barnett presented on her call last week with Moody's. Refinancing reviewed by committee. Tentative rate was given a month ago, and check in occurred to ensure nothing has changed.
 - 14.1.2. Should have the finalized publicly published rating expected soon for Bond rating – formalized packet by the end of the week
 - 14.1.3. 8/25 meeting with SECFA to approve the Bond process and moral obligation component
 - 14.1.4. After that, Moody's will re-do the rate

- 14.1.5. September BOD meeting, a bunch of documents to sign. Bonds have not yet been posted to the market to sell until after September meeting. We will be approving a deal “up to” the figure presented on September meeting
- 14.1.6. Should go to the market in October, then refinance, and proceed
- 14.1.7. Before the expansion, found two investors who were willing to take the risk and finance us before we showed we could run a high school. For this upcoming process, there were concerns with attorneys about language in the management agreement. That language was provided via email. Need to approve suggested changes from these attorneys
 - 14.1.7.1. Accel has mocked up a draft with those changes – forward the changes to the BOD at this time
 - 14.1.7.2. 3.01 - Terminology for financing
 - 14.1.7.3. 102.1.vi.A - Definitely stated BOD approves budget
 - 14.1.7.4. 4.04-b – funds received by Accel is for the benefit of the charter school
 - 14.1.7.5. 2.02 – in no event will the term including all extensions longer than 30 years from January 2016
- 14.2. BLA Booster Club Logo Proposal
 - 14.2.1. Nothing to present at this time as plans are ever changing – hope to have it up by October
 - 14.2.2. Still waiting on the design team
- 14.3. Safe Schools Plan/Checklist- What do we still need? (Signed Form)
 - 14.3.1. Safe Schools Act requests guidance about things that need to be in the policies
 - 14.3.2. Mission statement must be stated, for example
 - 14.3.3. Reviews several different codes of conduct – physical intervention, prohibitions against weapons, restraint policies, etc.
 - 14.3.4. Site inspection protocols, background checks, access to sex offender registry, etc.
 - 14.3.5. Information sharing relating to FERPA and CORA law
 - 14.3.6. Certain policies do not appear to exist in D49, but may need to create policies surrounding these things that are missing. Due Sept 7 (may need to have independent policies)
 - 14.3.7. Several policies fall into the Accel handbook as well
 - 14.3.8. Discussed de-escalation rooms that were presented at the D49 BOE meeting – reviewed that those are not currently at the BLA campuses and those rooms would be considered seclusion rooms per definitions
 - 14.3.9. Clarification provided on what is currently included in the D49 vs Accel’s policies and what is potentially currently missing
 - 14.3.10. We typically defer to D49 when we don’t have a written policy
 - 14.3.11. Some staff are currently CPI certified for any physical management.
 - 14.3.12. Need to put sex offender registry on our website and list Title 9
- 14.4. CRT Critical Race Theory
 - 14.4.1. Opened up for discussion; can be a heated topic and want to remind all members that we are here to make informed decisions based on policy and data, not emotional decisions. Looking out for the best interests of our students and families – please be respectful of each other.
 - 14.4.2. BOD member attended the D49 meeting – a resolution was passed to ban it in curriculum and in teacher training.
 - 14.4.3. Important to understand where CRT comes from and what it is. Academic discipline about how America was founded.

- 14.4.4. Matt Pacheco provided the remarks: It is important to know what CRT is and where it comes from. It is an Academic discipline that maintains that our nation was founded on capitalist oppression, patriarchy and white supremacy. It teaches that those forces are still at the root of our society today - although they suggest that it is more covert.
- 14.4.5. Many public comments and emails that were sent were in request of not teaching CRT in our schools.
- 14.4.6. Request to ensure that if curriculums in CO change in the future, that CRT has already been dealt with
- 14.4.7. Referenced Mary Lin Elementary in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 14.4.8. It has been pointed out that kids K-12 are not cognitively ready for the content and thus it would not be appropriate to teach CRT
- 14.4.9. Information has been submitted by Mr. Dahlman – very valuable but if we move forward with resolutions will need to be simplified.
- 14.4.10. Perspectives shared about removing personal biases and emotion from conversations like this as board members.
- 14.4.11. For the project of human knowledge to advance, nothing should be off the table. However, it is hard to reconcile this elevated concept for kids as well – it is far too complex. CRT was a curriculum that is a graduate level curriculum.
- 14.4.12. Need to have a deep understanding of the origins of CRT from 40 years ago not just the politicized versions of current times.
- 14.4.13. Important to point out that we are not voting on this tonight, but agreed that we need to deepen our understanding to honor the request of our community to address this issue.
- 14.4.14. Echoed many points to engage in scholarly literature as well
- 14.4.15. Want to teach our kids to think critically about old and new concepts. Possibly reserve some topics as we look further for post K12 education
- 14.4.16. New board and wanting to all be well educated before we vote on such a big issue
- 14.4.17. US Senate passed a bill to stop funding on schools where CRT is taught – still needs to go through the House
- 14.4.18. BLA has always been set up to be primary source, secondary source, etc as we move through all curriculum.
- 14.5. SAC/DAC Committee Participation
 - 14.5.1. Discussed looking into these committees as board members and determination our participation.
 - 14.5.2. Requested to find a liaison who can be a part of SAC / DAC and the BOD
 - 14.5.3. Someone who can attend and bring information back
 - 14.5.4. Request for more detailed information
 - 14.5.5. Can feel over-reaching to have a liaison in their committee and may override the checks and balances that comes with the SAC being separate
 - 14.5.6. Also looking at holding accountable and involvement and providing information
 - 14.5.7. Possibly participating as an audience member
 - 14.5.8. See the value in increasing that relationship but not sure of the how
 - 14.5.9. Sees value in the succession planning for the BOD as well
 - 14.5.10. Can have a liaison but not a member for the SAC / DAC
 - 14.5.11. Similar to the VP as a liaison for sanctioned organizations
 - 14.5.12. Do we need to outreach first to increase bridging the gap to have them begin coming here to report to the BOD

- 14.6. Strategic Committee Update
 - 14.6.1. Some hi-lights in the BOD report
 - 14.6.2. Need to figure out what the best way is to report this
 - 14.6.3. Need to hold BOD members accountable as well
 - 14.6.4. Each committee reported on their committee with updates
 - 14.6.5. Discussed role of other schools in the neighborhood in these goals as well
- 14.7. Disclosure Policy (Bond Refi)
 - 14.7.1. Goes along with all the documents we need to approve for the refinancing
 - 14.7.2. Must approve since it was sent from attorneys
 - 14.7.3. Questions of who the oversight officer is – typically goes to the business manager. Likely will go up to the financial officer with Accel for anything she cannot grab (Patty Ashley).
- 14.8. Charter League Participation
 - 14.8.1. Invoice sent to our organization, check was cut, however it was thought that we had not participated as members of the Charter League for a couple of years. Approximately 13k but does not need to be sent
 - 14.8.2. Alex Tomei met with Eric Dinnel and representatives from the League 2-3 years ago when it was decided that we would no longer participate and it was decided that the money was not necessarily worth what we would get
 - 14.8.3. Overlap with Accel as well as our lack of membership does not preclude us from being able to participate in some of their offerings as well
 - 14.8.4. Not much threat legislatively to Charter Schools currently which is one of the biggest benefits from participation (i.e. lobbying)
 - 14.8.5. Back when we did not continue participation we were also in a different place financially
 - 14.8.6. There is value in a CO specific team who understands the nuances in current CO law
 - 14.8.7. Clarification on the 9.7% PPR increase advertised – all schools are contacting this in CO
 - 14.8.8. Charter League provides an excellent level of service on things that we as a school may not have seen but they have seen a number of times (i.e. litigious situations)
 - 14.8.9. See value in contributing to the Charter School movement and the community of Charter Schools in greater CO
 - 14.8.10. Do we want to have a meeting with the League to ask questions with the RVP – have a presentation at the next BOD meeting (program hi-light, 10 minutes max)

15. Action Items

- 15.1. Moody's Refinancing
 - 15.1.1. Krisell Creager-Lumpkins motioned to approve the changes to the management agreement per the suggested language that was sent from our Bond Council and submit to management company for draft, Matthew Pacheco 2nd'd
 - 15.1.2. Discussion
 - 15.1.2.1. 2nd amendment to the management agreement – provided that it does not say we can never make an amendment again
 - 15.1.3. Vote Yes: Deann Barnett, Todd Blum, Krisell Creager-Lumpkins, Scott Lewis, Matthew Pacheco, Alexandra Tomei, Heather Zambrano
 - 15.1.4. Vote No: None
 - 15.1.5. Motion carries
- 15.2. BLA Booster Club Logo Proposal

- 15.2.1. No action needed at this time, will discuss in September
- 15.3. Safe Schools Plan/Checklist
 - 15.3.1. No need to make a motion on this, action item not needed
- 15.4. SAC/DAC Committee Participation
 - 15.4.1. Krisell Creager-Lumpkins motioned to appoint a liaison to the SAC / DAC committee from the BOD, Matthew Pacheco 2ndd
 - 15.4.2. Discussion
 - 15.4.2.1. Possible that not enough is known about the SAC / DAC to vote on this
 - 15.4.2.2. Consideration of reviewing bylaws
 - 15.4.2.3. Discussion that not knowing enough is more reason to create this liaison position
 - 15.4.2.4. Caution about how that looks like in its reality
 - 15.4.2.5. Consideration of some agreement on what this liaison role will look like
 - 15.4.2.6. Discussion on making SAC responsible for their participation and holds them accountable in a similar way to the sanctioned organizations
 - 15.4.2.7. Report to the principles
 - 15.4.2.8. Not ready to make a decision?
 - 15.4.2.9. Can it go under standing committee reports? Have a standing place to report (accountable by an administrator)
 - 15.4.3. Vote Yes: Krisell Creager-Lumpkins
 - 15.4.4. Vote No: Deann Barnett, Todd Blum, Scott Lewis, Matthew Pacheco, Alexandra Tomei, Heather Zambrano
 - 15.4.5. Motion denied
- 15.5. Disclosure Policy (Bond Refi)
 - 15.5.1. Deann Barnett motioned to accept the disclosure policy from Bond Council, Matthew Pacheco 2ndd
 - 15.5.2. Discussion
 - 15.5.2.1. Similar to the document we signed a few years ago
 - 15.5.3. Vote Yes: Deann Barnett, Todd Blum, Krisell Creager-Lumpkins, Scott Lewis, Matthew Pacheco, Alexandra Tomei, Heather Zambrano
 - 15.5.4. Vote No: None
 - 15.5.5. Motion carries
- 15.6. Charter League Participation
 - 15.6.1. No action needed, request for presentation at next BOD meeting

16. Executive Sessions

- 16.1. Executive session requested on C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (3) (a) (V)
 - 16.1.1. Matthew Pacheco motioned to enter executive session, Todd Blum 2ndd
 - 16.1.2. Vote Yes: Deann Barnett, Todd Blum, Krisell Creager-Lumpkins, Scott Lewis, Matthew Pacheco, Alexandra Tomei, Heather Zambrano
 - 16.1.3. Entered at 9:52pm
 - 16.1.4. Heather Zambrano motioned to exit at 11:16pm

17. Future Business

- 17.1. End of Year Testing Report
- 17.2. AMP Electives

