

**Plymouth Educational Center Board of Directors
1460 E. Forest Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 4807**

**March 12, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING APPROVED MINUTES**

The meeting convened at 5:22 p.m. with Mr. Fair presiding.

A. Roll Call

Members Present: Nicholas Hood III, Darwyn P. Fair, Redic Grant, Celia Thomas, Jonathan Sudduth
Members Absent: None

B. Mission Statement - We, the Plymouth Educational Center community will educate, motivate , elevate and nurture all students by promoting academic excellence and responsible citizenship.

C. Approval of Agenda – A motion to approve the agenda was offered by Mr. Sudduth, supported by Mrs. Thomas. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2019 – A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Rev. Hood, supported by Mr. Grant. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Student Council Presentation

Ms. Coleman introduced the student council members. Joshua Fowler, student council president, distributed a statement to board members and read the statement aloud. They are requesting that the board donate \$9,420 to assist with 8th grade end of the year activities. They are still in the process of raising funds.

F. Board Affairs

CMO Discussion – Mr. Fair spoke about the process to date in seeking a management company and restructuring the academy’s finances. Board member Thomas walked the board through the process from the beginning and presented a synopsis of activities to date. The following motion was offered:

The Plymouth Educational Center Board of Directors moves to approve a letter of interest to be sent to Distinctive Schools to begin good faith negotiations on an interim (April – June) and long-term contract for school management services.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Fair told the audience that a good committee and two consultants have been working with the board of this process.

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The vote for this motion was as follows:

Mr. Fair – yes
Rev. Hood – yes
Mr. Grant – yes
Mrs. Thomas – yes
Mr. Sudduth – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

G. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

H. New Business – No New Business

I. Public Comment – Mr. Fair asked comments to be kept to three minutes.

Caren Jones – PEC Parapro and parent stated she has been a part of PEC for over 15 years. She stated that it sounds like a decision has been made in relation to the selection of a management company. She added that she didn't feel as if the staff was a part of the decision-making process. She then reviewed the recent NWEA scores, stating that the growth was a result of the work of the current teaching and administrative staff. She added that the students need stability and they have that at PEC.

Mr. Fair thanked her for her comments.

Emma Lewis – 2nd grade teacher – She asked if purchased services was the same as what Midwest and Clairmount was currently doing? She also asked why no one stepped in from CMU once the scores began declining. She also asked about the deficit that Distinctive Schools has at their Detroit school. She added that DEPSA selects their students, but PEC does not and that is reflected in each academy's scores. She wondered why CMU, which has been with PEC since its inception, why they didn't step up when the academy was beginning to decline.

Mr. Fair stated that CMU's management has also changed over the years. Discussion continued.

Brittany Mosley – 5th grade teacher – She asked that some of the companies that visited PEC stated that they were doing the same things that PEC is already doing so what is the actual reason that PEC is switching management companies? She asked if the decision by CMU is personal.

Mr. Fair responded that it was mandated by CMU and he can't characterize it as being personal. The PEC board is complying with the authorizer by going through the process. Board member Thomas added that leveraging resources is what the academy is moving towards. The goal is to keep grades and test scores going up at an acceptable rate to CMU and MDE, be fiscally viable and finally, in compliance with the contract of the authorizer. Discussion ensued.

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Carolyn Mosley – 1st grade teacher – asked if PEC is the only CMU school with low scores? She stated that there are other CMU schools with lower scores so what is the real issue? Discussion ensued.

Caren Jones asked Meagan Brown who she is. Ms. Brown stated that her role is to support the board. Mrs. Jones asked if she spoke for CMU and if not, she'd like to address someone from CMU. Mr. Fair suggested that direct questions be written and provided to the board or they could contact CMU directly.

Lynn Coleman – 8th grade science teacher – asked that if the board supports CMU and CMU supports the board, who is hearing the teachers? Mr. Grant responded that the process has not been easy. He understands all of their concerns, but the bottom line is that CMU is not here to see what is done by academy staff day to day; CMU's interest is in the bottom line. Ms. Coleman responded by stating that teachers are fearful and are focusing on job security rather than teaching their students, due to the uncertainty.

Mr. Fair stated that the interim contract will begin to see the effect of what, if any, changes will look like. Discussion continued.

Ms. Jones concluded the discussion by stating that the staff supported Clairmount and if allowed, would have voted to keep Clairmount in the management position.

J. Any Other Business – None

K. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.


MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Pauletta C. Holloway
Recording Secretary

March 18, 2019
Date

Approved by the Plymouth Educational Center Board of Directors


Board Secretary

3-27-19
Date