

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Drexel Foundation for Educational Excellence, Inc.
DBA Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
3401 W. 5th Avenue, Gary, IN 46406
Wednesday, January 25, 2023
6:00 PM CT

I. Meeting Called to Order

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Thea Bowman Leadership Academy (“TBLA”) was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair at 6:00 PM CT.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited by the assembled Directors and attendees.

III. Roll Call

Eve Gomez, President	Present
Jason Beres, Vice President	Present
Michelle Dickerson, Treasurer	Present
Cliff Gooden	Present
Helen Hill	Present
Cedric Steele	Present
Michael Suggs	Present

Other Attendees:

- Lindsay Omlor, Executive Director of Charter Schools, Education One
- Marisa Simmons, Principal, Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
- Eva Spilker, President & CFO, PLA
- Cheri Shannon, Chief Growth Officer, PLA
- Melissa Morris, NW Regional Director, PLA
- Tahirah Thompson, Director of Operations Facilities & New School Launch, PLA
- Antoinette Troupe, Operations Manager, Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
- Johnny Jin, Chief Strategy & Development Officer, PLA
- Lauren Fihe, Government Development Manager, PLA
- Cathy Kendrick, Director of Human Resources, PLA
- Brandy Ivy, Human Resources Generalist, PLA
- Raul Garcia, Financial Grants Manager, PLA
- Arely Benavides, Chief Operating Officer, PLA
- Andrea Robinson, Chief Academic Officer, PLA

a. Approval of Board Agenda

Motion: Cliff Gooden Support: Michael Suggs
Yays: 7 Nays: 0

b. Approval of Board Minutes from December 14, 2022 and December 19, 2022

Motion: Jason Beres Support: Cliff Gooden
Yays: 7 Nays: 0

IV. CMO Report

a. Principal's Report

Principal, Marisa Simmons, provided an update on academics, enrollment, staffing, the data dashboard, January and February events, and a February preview of school happenings.

b. Academic Support Update

Melissa Morris provided a middle-of-year snapshot and strategic planning for 2nd semester. Data points and in-action instructional review plans were shared out.

c. Financial Report

i. Audit Update

Eva Spilker presented a financial review of the income statement, cash balances, accounts payable balances, and days cash. Eva reported an update on the audit; all items have been turned in and the audit is on schedule.

V. Authorizer Report (Trine University/Education One LLC)

Lindsay Omlor shared a link with an accountability update, community connections, and upcoming events.

Michelle Dickerson requested the metrics and criteria for the Organizational Performance of Governing Board.

VI. Old Business

a. Approval of Security Guard Contract

A motion was made to ratify the agreement with Tatum Security with the exception that the term is modified until the end of the school year.

Motion: Cedric Steele Support: Michael Suggs
Yays: 5 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 2 (Eve and Jason)

A motion was made to immediately entertain an RFP with a response time of 30 days from issuance, and to include the statistical data necessary to make a complete and correct decision regarding the response to the RFP.

Motion: Jason Beres Support: Michelle Dickerson
Yays: 7 Nays: 0

VII. New Business (Discussion Only)

a. Approval of OnSite RTU Service Quote (HVAC)
Motion: Michael Suggs Support: Jason Beres
Yays: 7 Nays: 0

VIII. Discussion items

- a. Building Expansion
- b. Portables
- c. ESSER Update
- d. RFP – Technology

Tahirah Thompson provided an update on the building expansion; and critical and non-critical items for the portables.

Johnny Jin presented an ESSER Overview. The ESSER II budget amendment was approved; with the ESSER III budget amendment being submitted next week. Michelle Dickerson requested a line item expenditure and a timeline for the Learning Environment for when those items will be addressed and implemented.

Arelly Benadives provided an overview of the RFP - Technology.

IX. PTA

Tanisha Smith, PTA President, provided an update. The last meeting was held on Monday, 1/23 and a credit repair specialist came to speak to parents. The next meeting is scheduled for 2/20 at 7 PM; Edge Water Health will be the guest.

X. Open Communication/Public Comments

- Jason Beres inquired about posting the position for Director of IT.
- Ms. Toni inquired about when the staff will be receiving their holiday bonus.
- Eve asked Principal Simons her thoughts on planning a team-building outing.

XI. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Jason Beres Support: Michael Suggs

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.