

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Drexel Foundation for Educational Excellence, Inc.
DBA Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
3401 W. 5th Avenue, Gary, IN 46406
Wednesday, February 22, 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, February 22, 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
Clifton 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
- Theresa Jacobs, Instructional Specialist, TBLA
- 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
- Ashley Minter, National Director of Marketing & Communications, PLA
- Javi Dimas, VP of Enrollment, PLA
- JoAnn Gama, Chief Human Assets Officer, PLA
- Arely Benavides, Chief Operating Officer, PLA
- Andrea Robinson, Chief Academic Officer, PLA

a. Approval of Board Agenda

Motion: Michael Suggs Support: Cedric Steele

Yays: 7 Nays: 0

The Board unanimously voted to approve the board agenda.

b. Approval of Board Minutes from January 25, 2023 Motion:

Clifton Gooden Support: Michael Suggs

Yays: 7 Nays: 0

The Board unanimously voted to approve the board minutes.

IV. CMO Report

a. Principal's Report

Principal, Marisa Simmons, provided an update on academics, the data dashboard, February events, and upcoming events.

b. Academic Support Update

Melissa Morris provided the academic support update and introduced the new instructional specialist, Theresa Jacobs. Melissa presented the middle-of-year NWEA benchmark data points, Benchmark Assessment System (BAS), and Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) growth levels.

c. Financial Report

Eva Spilker presented a financial review of the income statement, cash balances, accounts payable balances, and days cash. The audit has been completed and the exit interview is scheduled for tomorrow.

V. Presentations

a. ESSER Overview

Johnny Jin, Chief Strategy & Development Officer, provided the ESSER Overview. ESSER II has been approved and ESSER III is still under review. Michelle Dickerson suggested including the capital projects as a line item on the expenditure sheet.

b. Enrollment/Student Recruitment

Ashley Minter, National Director of Marketing & Communications, presented the enrollment and marketing strategy highlighting the marketing initiatives, enrollment materials, social media campaigns, and marketing progress. The marketing and school leadership teams are working on finalizing the billboard.

Javi Dimas, VP of Enrollment, provided the 2023-2024 recruitment and enrollment strategy.

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

Lindsay Omlor shared a link with an accountability update, community connections, 2022 stakeholder survey results and next steps, and upcoming events. The Board Governance self-assessment is due April 15th.

VII. Other Business

a. Helen Hill was sworn in by Eve Gomez as the new school board Secretary.

b. Eve Gomez informed the board that a new attorney has been hired. Attorney King will remain on and will slowly transition out of his role.

VIII. New Business

a. Approval of MOU for the Career Center

This item was tabled due to the Board having questions regarding insurance and liability.

Motion: Helen Hill Support: Cedric Steele

Yays: 7 Nays: 0

b. Approval of Raise the Bar Initiative

This item was tabled due to the Board having concerns surrounding enrollment, teacher turnover, and marketing efforts. Eve requested further information on how the RBI numbers will be supported.

Motion: Helen Hill Support: Michael Suggs

Yays: 7 Nays: 0

c. Approval of 2023-2024 School Calendar

Motion: Michael Suggs Support: Helen Hill

Yays: 7 Nays: 0

The Board unanimously voted to approve the 2023-2024 school calendar.

IX. Discussion items

a. RFP Updates

Arely Benadives, Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on the Technology RFP, active until March 1st. Once the submission date has expired, the operations team will evaluate and submit a recommendation at the next board meeting. The operations team is working on drafting and posting the security and food services RFPs. Tahirah Thompson provided an update on the building expansion RFP. The board will have their legal counsel review the RFP and have it approved by Friday.

b. Portables

Tahirah Thompson provided an update on critical and non-critical items.

X. PTA

XI. Open Communication/Public Comments

XII. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Michael Suggs Support: Cedric Steele

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.