

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Drexel Foundation for Educational Excellence, Inc.
DBA Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
3401 W. 5th Avenue, Gary, IN 46406
Wednesday, March 29, 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, March 29, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair at 6:02 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	Absent
Cedric Steele	Present
Michael Suggs	Present

Other Attendees:

- Amanda Webb, Assistant Director of Community Connections, 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
- Andrea Robinson, Chief Academic Officer, PLA

a. Approval of Board Agenda

Motion: Cliff Gooden Support: Michael Suggs

Yays: 6 Nays: 0

The Board unanimously voted to approve the board agenda.

b. Approval of Board Minutes from February 22, 2023

Motion: Michael Suggs Support: Michelle Dickerson

Yays: 6 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, March events, and upcoming events.

b. Academic Support Update

Melissa Morris provided the academic support update and reported on the instructional review process, comparison data, Teacher and Support Staff of the Year, and PLA University.

ACTION ITEM: Michael Suggs requested the regional (Lake County) and state averages.

c. Financial Report

Eva Spilker presented a financial review of the income statement, cash balances, accounts payable balances, and days cash. The 990 tax return is currently being completed and will be filed and presented at a future board meeting.

Motion: Michael Suggs Support: Michelle Dickerson

Yays: 6 Nays: 0

The Board unanimously voted to approve the financial report.

V. Updates

a. ESSER

Johnny Jin, Chief Strategy & Development Officer, provided an ESSER update and was happy to report the ESSER III FY23 budget has been officially approved by the state.

Johnny thanked everyone for their collaboration and support.

b. Enrollment/Student Recruitment

Javi Dimas, VP of Enrollment, presented the enrollment and recruitment update.

Ashley Minter, National Director of Marketing & Communications, shared the new TBLA website and marketing update.

ACTION ITEM: The marketing team will work with school leadership to get the Student Handbook added to the website.

ACTION ITEM: Michelle requested past marketing spending amounts and additional information on the size of 21st Century compared to TBLA.

ACTION ITEM: The marketing team will work with school leadership to get another billboard display, quotes for radio slots (WLTH), and television commercials.

c. Food Service RFP

The RFP process has begun and expires on May 1st, 2023. Javi will share the results once the RFP process closes.

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

Amanda Webb shared the accountability update, community connections, and upcoming events. The Board Governance self-assessment is due April 15th. The End of Year Satisfaction surveys are due on June 1st.

VII. Old Business

a. Approval of MOU for the Career Center

Motion: Michael Suggs Support: Cedric Steele

Yays: 6 Nays: 0

The Board unanimously voted to approve the MOU for the Career Center.

ACTION ITEM: Once determined, Principal Simmons to share the list of students who will be attending the Career Center in the fall.

b. Approval of Performance Incentive

This item was tabled until the April 26th, 2023 board meeting. This does not delay the Retention Bonus, which was previously approved as a part of ESSER.

Motion: Jason Beres Support: Cedric Steele

Yays: 6 Nays: 0

ACTION ITEM: JoAnn to work with Principal Simmons on another approach for rewarding staff and will share out in April.

ACTION ITEM: Melissa is to include the overlap for SROs in the next CMO report.

VIII. New Business

a. Approval of IT Vendor

The Board made a motion to accept the proposal.

Motion: Jason Beres Support: Michael Suggs

Yays: 6 Nays: 0

IX. Discussion Items

a. Building Expansion

b. Portables

Tahirah Thompson provided an update on the building expansion. Michelle would like to know what items can be reallocated, the amount of cash on hand, and what plan B would look like.

Ms. Troupe and Tahirah provided an update on the portables. The anticipated move-in date is April 10th or 11th.

X. PTA

Lori Anderson, VP of PTA provided an update. The Domino fundraiser has ended and awaiting the final count.

XI. Open Communication/Public Comments

Lori Anderson raised a question regarding online re-enrollment and a tab for athletics on the new website.

Michelle requested feedback on the re-enrollment process; when it was changed and if it will be changed back. The Board requested this information be communicated to parents.

ACTION ITEM: Melissa to speak with Haritha regarding the robocall greeting.

XII. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Jason Beres Support: Cedric Steele

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.