

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Drexel Foundation for Educational Excellence, Inc.
DBA Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
3401 W. 5th Avenue, Gary, IN 46406
Wednesday, November 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, November 29, 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 - Online
Helen Hill	Present – Joined online at 6:29 pm
Cedric Steele	Present

Other Attendees:

- Marisa Simmons, Principal, Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
- Jewell Harris, Jr., Attorney, Harris Law Firm
- Caitlin Hicks, Education One
- Eva Spilker, President & CFO, PLA
- Melissa Morris, NW Executive Director, PLA
- Antoinette Troupe, Operations Manager, TBLA

a. Approval of Board Agenda

The board made a motion to approve the agenda for November 29, 2023.

Motion: Cedric Steele Support: Jason Beres

Yays: 4 Nays: 0

The board unanimously voted to approve the agenda.

b. Approval of Board Minutes from October 25, 2023.

The board made a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Michelle Dickerson Support: Cedric Steele

Yays: 4 Nays: 0

The board unanimously voted to approve the October 25, 2023 board minutes.

IV. Open Communication/Public Comments

- None

V. CMO Report

a. Principal’s Report

Principal Marisa Simmons, presented the November Admin Report with updates on academics, professional learning communities (PLCs), differentiated workstations, small group instructions, recent activities, and upcoming events. Principal Simmons encouraged all attendees to subscribe to the WTBA Thea Bowman Academy News YouTube channel!

b. Academic Board Report

Melissa Morris presented the academic board report and shared the Common Formative Assessments (CFA) data on Close Reading, K-2 Math Foundational Skills, Eureka Math, and intervention.

c. Financial Report

Eva Spilker presented the financial review with an overview of the income statement with revenue, expenses, and net income, the balance sheet with cash balances, accounts payable balances, days cash, and the enrollment budget.

Trustee Dickerson inquired about pre-ESSER days of cash, and grant income.

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

Caitlin Hicks shared the authorizer’s accountability update, academic, financial, and organizational performance, and upcoming events.

VII. Old Business

a. Representatives from MECA shared an update and the rendering design for the building expansion project.

b. Ms. Troupe provided an update on the bus transportation.

VIII. New Business

a. Approval of Amended Lawn Care Contract

The board made a motion to approve the amended lawn care contract.

Motion: Jason Beres

Support: Cedric Steele

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

The board unanimously voted to approve the amended lawn care contract to include snow removal.

b. Approval to Cancel the December Board Meeting

The board made a motion to approve the cancellation of the December 20, 2023 board meeting with the contingency to call a special board meeting, if needed.

Motion: Jason Beres

Support: Cedric Steele

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

The board unanimously voted to approve the December board meeting and to reconvene in January.

IX. PTA

PTA President, Tanisha Smith, provided the PTA update. A meeting was not held in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19th at 7 PM via Zoom. The meeting information can be found on the website and TBLA Facebook page.

X. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Jason Beres

Support: Michelle Dickerson

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.