

RISING LEADERS ACADEMY  
BOARD MINUTES  
October 7, 2020 MEETING

Board Members Present via Zoom: Dr. Garman, Dr. Baker, Dr. Nofal, Mr. Zawahry, Mr. Steinbrecher, Mrs. Batrony, Mr. Albibi, and Dr. Mazloum

Others present included Dr. Jaber-Operations Director, Mrs. Perryman-Principal, and Mrs. Janis Barton-Accountant

President, Dr. Nofal called the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Dr. Nofal moved to approve the minutes for Aug 19, 2020. Motion seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Dr. Nofal motion to approve agenda. Principal Perryman asked to add three action items to agenda, survey results, teacher salary increase plan, and out field/in field teacher list . Motion seconded . All in favor. Motion passed.

Mrs. Janis Barton of School Financial Services provided a review of the audit report starting at 12:08. Highlights of the audit were discussed, and questions were answered. No change was made to the reported fund balance of \$798,108 that was previously reported for June 30, 2020. There were also no findings by the auditor for the year as discussed in the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters. Principal Perryman discussed Restart funds reimbursement and how funds are issued by the granting body.

Dr. Nofal moved to approve audit report. Motion seconded. All in favor. Motion passed at 12:33.

Principal Perryman gave the principal's report, including update on school operations, preliminary parent survey results and accomplishments, starting at 12:34. RLA has followed all CDC and DOH guidelines in dealing with the COVID pandemic and students return to class. Upon a visit from the superintendent of Bay district schools, RLA and the staff were complimented on their efforts to maintain guidelines. RLA is the only school in Bay county that has had zero active COVID cases. RLA passed the safe school assessment audit with favorable return. According to preliminary parent survey 88% of parents approve of RLA's operation during the first 9 weeks of school. 10% were neutral and 2% disapprove.

Dr. Baker was asked to speak on behalf of the RLA COVID committee. Dr. Baker informed the board that the COVID committee met at RLA on Sept 21 and toured the facility. The committee concluded that RLA was following CDC and DOH guidelines. The committee also had some recommendations. Hand sanitizer to be placed in bathrooms, covers or sign placed over light switches to prevent people from touching them, gowns should be worn in isolation rooms and social distancing games played in PE class.

Dr. Perryman informed the board that in the first 9 weeks 65% of students attended the school and 35% were distance learners. After the preliminary results of the parent survey, there seems to be an increase in parents favoring their children attend in person class of up to 85% of parents choosing to return to school. RLA is not required to accommodate students if it is unable to follow CDC or DOH

guidelines. However, the increase in student load can be accommodated at RLA with increase in shields as well as other PPE. However, some classes, including 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades are more crowded than other classes and might not be able to accommodate all requests for return.

At 1:10 Mr. Albibi moved to leave student return decisions to the principal's discretion on a case by case basis. Motion seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Principal Perryman introduced out field and in field teachers list to be approved. Three teachers don't have full certification but are eligible to teach in Florida as they pursue certification. Motion to approve by Mrs. Batrony. Motion seconded. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Principal Perryman introduced the teacher salary increase to follow DOE implementation of line 187-214.

President Dr. Nofal moves to approve at 1:27. Motion seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm