

Informational Meeting Minutes

W-A-Y Academy Flint

(Informational Meeting)

Date: April 22, 2022

Members present: Howard Buetow, Lori Wright and Devontae Powell, Kelli Glenn

Others present: Jean Pash (via zoom), Isaiah Pettway, Shelli Smith, Trena Braswell, Ronda Carter, Angela

Meeting Called to Order @ 6:30pm

Roll Call Attendance

Howard Buetow (Genesee County)-Present

Lori Wright (Genesee County)-Present

Kelli Glenn (Washtenaw County)-Present via zoom

Devontae Powell (Genesee County)-Present

Approval of the Agenda

- Motion to approve amended agenda: Devontae/2nd by lori
- Roll Call Vote: Kelli Glenn (Y) Lori Wright (Y) Howard Buetow (Y) Devontae Powell (Y). Motion carries.

Call to the Public:

- Read by Howard Buetow-no public present or commenting.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 20, 2021.
- Motioned by Lori Wright/2nd by Devontae Powell
- Roll Call Vote: Howard Buetow (Y) Kelli Glenn (Y) Lori Wright (Y) Devontae Powell (Y). Motion carries.

Correspondence

Old Business

New Business

Educational Service Providers Report

- **Superintendent's Report**

Program Updates (W-A-Y Programs)

- There is a new Accountant, Dawn Petite. She started working with WAY two weeks ago. Dawn is replacing Jeans former role.
- As of this month Jean is officially the new Finance Director. No longer the Interim Finance Director.
- Tom Tbou has been working with Jean and checking all of Jean's work. He and Jean have been working together to create the budget next year. Tom was recommended by MSBO to work and train Jean.

Enrollment/Recruitment/Marketing

- Currently the schools are going through the Re-Enrollment period, until April 30th.
- Open Enrollment is from May until Fall 22 Count in October.
- There will soon be media postings launched through Lingo. The schools are also planning open houses and door to door visits. SWAG is being ordered, things like t-shirts and incentives for staff and families. A media campaign will also be launched the middle of May. This will include radio ads and social media videos.
- The schools are still working together with the marketing consultant from last year. They hope to have greater numbers for enrollment this school year.
- In addition, Supt. Pettway has met with the Flint Cultural Academy Administrator. It is a K-5 school and it is not too far from the Flint Campus. Isaiah and the administrator spoke about a partnership to talk about the school's prospect to develop a partnership where they would give them the opportunity to come and talk to the families. He states that the school does have intention to expand their grade levels within the next five years in the future. If they choose to expand they would only be adding 6-8th grade.
- Supt. Pettway informed the board that he really wants to tackle the fact that the school is seen as an alternative educational school. It is labeled this way but it doesn't necessarily mean that it's bad thing. That is how it's looked upon tight now. A campaign is being launched to turn it over and one of the highlights is that for example there was an immigrant student at WAY Academy Detroit. He started in the fall as a 9th grader. He wanted to work and obtain a job but needed to graduate as fast as possible. He graduated and is now enrolling in dual enrollment classes. He has chosen to work and will stay with the school for the next year. This is a model of how we meet the students individual student needs.
- Board Member Devonte' Powell asked how they are currently marketing this strategy. Supt. Pettway replied by introducing the current marketing strategy pitch to market based on tailored need for students. That they will take a student regardless of their situation and create an individual plan for them. By the age of 20 they will get them to graduate. This has always been the model but where it has lacked is that there has been the perception that the school is only for those who fall behind. It's also an opportunity for those who want to advance or traditional school setting has not worked for them.
- For enrollment numbers they are planning to pull a holistic approach not a comprehensive market strategy. He mentioned that when he came in June, he started the Marketing push in August but was not able to see a lot of improvement because it was toward the end of enrollment.
- Another issue with the Flint Campus is the that the community doesn't know they are there and what the school offers. The Way Flint Team has done a good job to target community events and their goal is to create more community events this year. They plan to start bow and to get out there. The team and Supt. Pettway would like to showcase the setting of the school and if all others did too there will be a waiting list. The goal is to show it to the community and everything they

have to offer. There is a lot of competition with schools offering blended virtual options for a lot of districts

- Way Academy has been doing this for many years and they have proven that this strategy that the schoolwork's. The interesting thing about it is that schools are coming to them for advice and training to get a better idea of what a blended program is. The enrollment goal it's to look at the enrollment trends. There has not been a conscious data driven way to decide what our enrollment numbers will be. He mentioned they looked at the enrollment trend from the last three years. They took the average number of students that they accept from May to October and added it to the number of students re enrolled. Once re enrollment is done at the end of this month, they will add that number to the re enrollment number and obtain a concrete enrollment number goal for next year.

Academic Updates

- Focus: State testing is underway. PSAT and SAT are done. Next week there will be makeups for testing. After that it will be M-Step Testing. Students and staff will have a two week break from testing and then benchmark testing will begin.
- Only concern is the student participation. This year we are back to full participation required and during Covid it was an option for the students. The Flint Team has done a great job communicating to the students that they need to participate and take the assessments.
- Benchmark testing results will be available at the end of May. Benchmark testing results is what the schools are contractually held responsible for the comparison of fall to spring scores.

Personnel Updates

- All positions at WAY Academy Flint Campus are all filled.

Legislative/Authorizer Updates

- Consolidated Grants Application is live-completed and turned in on by January 6th for retroactive usage of July 1st. (MEGS+ and NEXYS) Funds are now available for draw-down. There are some amendments requested by the State and those have been completed.
- Jean has been able to draw down which is great. The consolidated apps are the Title I, school improvement grant. Title II the professional development grant and the Title Four the student services grant.
- They have all been approved and the funds have been made available to draw down and reimburse. Supt. Pettway mention that now they will be able to start seeing the accounts payable drawdown.
- For ESSR II there was \$13,000 remaining to spend and they were able to reallocate those funds. Director Shelli Smith will now be able to get her podcasting room for students to use. They will be able to obtain credit for this podcast class.

- ESSR I and were given to the schools to keep the programs going. For ESSR III the state is requiring community input and feedback to decide what the funds should be spent on. There was a community forum held and a survey that went out to be able to identify the areas. There were 5 areas identified: staff recruitment and retention, facilities, mitigating learning loss, increasing technology and professional development. By law the funds must be spent on those 5 areas.
- If approved every year for the next three years every staff member will get a retention bonus at the end of the year. Any New staff that they recruit after 90 days of employment will receive a signing bonus.
- Also included in your ESSR fund is all the money that is needed to move the West location to the new location. It will be covered under facilities. That cost will not have to come out of the general budget of moving.
- Professional development specific to Social emotional learning. They are also looking to hire a Social/Emotional Social Worker full time. As well as Social Emotional Counselor. This person will be a certified Mental Health Specialist full time to be able to work with students at both campuses for the next three years. With positions like this if it works for the next three years then they can investigate other fund sources to keep these positions ongoing.
- The other major area was Technology. Every student at WAY Academy will have brand new technology over the next 3 years. New computers as well as WIFI boxes to take home with them.
- Mitigating learning loss, they can focus efforts on student with English as a second language. The plan is to purchase equipment that is text to speech. They will so be paying for everything that WAY Academy has to offer to be translated to Spanish. As well as purchasing professional development called SIOP, that is specific to teaching students that are ESL.
- Lastly is the supplemental service for their core curriculum. The school is already providing them with this, but they will be able to get reimbursed for it. The government requires 20% of those funds to get set aside for learning loss. On Monday they will be meeting to finalize this. Thanks to the ESSR funds there will not be a deficit.
- He mentioned that they will also be improving the staff technology as well and offset the cost of licensing fees. Mrs. Smith and Supt. Pettway have worked together to plan this budget. If it does not work the first year you can always amend it for the following school year. The next month there will be a presentation of this Budget and the budget plan will be available for the board members to review and approve.
- **Highlights:** The amount of credit obtained this month at Way Academy Flint by the students is ridiculous. It's amazing to see how much the team has worked toward this the directors report all

Director's Report

Ms. Smith shared the following:

- Enrollment went down this month. There were five graduates in the month of March. She said they lost one who ran away from home and no longer wanted

to continue going to school. There was a dip in enrollment, and they went from 89 students to 83 this month mostly for good reasons.

- Total credits obtained were 779.3. About 79% of the researchers obtained half a credit or more. This was amazing, the average credit was 0.9 across-the-board. The team tries to sponsor a monthly project for students to be able to obtain some kind of credit and their focus this month was to prepare for standardized testing. Mark and Siobhan provided sample questions for students. Then they were broken down into smaller groups for students to practice identifying what the questions asked. The WIDA test has been completed, there was 100% participation overall. The state testing is at 60% participation with make-up continuing. The plan is to start the performance series testing in the middle of May. We plan to do this because in June the student's attendance and participation starts to drop. They think that because traditional schools go on summer break that they are as well.
- March 18 there was a professional development held about different programs. They learned about math options in the building to make staff familiar of what math activities are available to offer students. Social emotional presentation was given by Sabrina the social worker. She presented about and spent a lot of time focusing and learning about ways to help students. Since then, they have implemented an activity where Sabrina the social worker gets 3 to 4 students for about 20 minutes at a time. They are to have a conversation with other students in the small group. The activities must stop in the month of April because of testing. The plan is to continue for the month of May and onto the next school year as well.
- May 10 is career day and Mrs. Smith is inviting the board members to present if they would like to. Currently there will be three branches of the military presenting. About 20 professionals and three colleges representatives will be there. The architect next-door and even a hairdresser. The purpose is to have kids write down questions to ask during career day. Students will be going around to ask these questions and will be able to obtain career development credit.
- She mentioned that she would like to promote the fact that a traditional school setting is stressful. The WAY Flint Team try to obtain the opposite because they've heard from several students that come to them how stressful a traditional school setting is and this school is not.

Treasurers Report

Jean Pash shared the following March 2022 Financial reports

- She was happy to report that the grant funds are coming. She presented the board up with the budget amendment are posted on the board portal she will need approval as soon as possible.
 - Ms. Jean Pash announced that the State Aid Payment was received in the amount of \$81,276.72. The Accounts Payable was \$341,421.88. The payroll for the month of March added up to \$73,691.10. Monies Transferred to Program and applied was \$70,000. The new invoices were only \$33,165.21. The accounts payable as of March 31, 2022, was

\$378,278.19. Payroll Liabilities was \$16,962.00. Request for transfer in the amount of \$72,000.00.

- Supt. Pettway wanted to let the board members know that they were not in a deficit up because they were able to reallocate the funds. The reason why they may have been in a deficit at the end of the year was because of the low count for fall 21 day Count. The enrollment was 86 students and the projected amount was higher than that. Another reason why they were not at a deficit was all the payroll allocations were correct. That's what Jean was saying when she said payroll liabilities went down. Please know that you will not end the year at a deficit.
- Board President Howard thanked Jean for the budget comparison. He said it helped him understand better the financial reports. Jean let Howard know that the signature approval page was sent to him via panda doc. When he gets a chance to review them and if all looks good too please sign approve and sign.
 - Ms. Jean Pash announced that the State Aid Payment was received in the amount of \$81,276.72. The Accounts Payable was \$341,421.88. The payroll for the month of March added up to \$73,691.10. Monies Transferred to Program and applied was \$70,000. The new invoices were only \$33,165.21. The accounts payable as of March 31, 2022, was \$378,278.19. Payroll Liabilities was \$16,962.00. Request for transfer in the amount of \$72,000.00.

Training

- No training to share.

Action Items

Approval to Accept Financial Reports March 2022

- Motion to approve amended agenda: Devontae Powell /2nd by Lori Wright
- Roll Call Vote: Kelli Glenn (Y) Lori Wright (Y) Howard Buetow (Y) Devontae Powell (Y). Motion carries.

Approval of the 21-22 Budget Amendment

- Motion to approve amended agenda: Devontae Powell /2nd by Lori Wright
- Roll Call Vote: Kelli Glenn (Y) Lori Wright (Y) Howard Buetow (Y) Devontae Powell (Y). Motion carries.

LSSU Liaison Updates

Melissa Weisburger shared the following items:

- Melissa did receive Lori 's acclamation and she is grateful.
- Rebecca Clawson is now the interim executive director if you need to get a hold of her, she is at rclawson@lsu.edu. Mrs. Clawson is eager to come in and meet all the board members. She was thinking about maybe sometime in September.
- In terms of professional development, she didn't want to mention names but there was one board member who has completed the two hours of PD. One board member who has one hour of PD. Another board member who has no hours of PD.

- LSSU is truly flexible with what gets counted. It can be anything you do or go to at your job that can be used for the board. There are a lot of videos on the other trainings on the website that can be watched. Just need to send her three takeaways to get credit for it.
- Angela Erwin has ended all training for this year. They are taking suggestions on what topics to choose for next year.
- Just a reminder that all students that graduate from LSSU charter schools automatically get excepted at LSSU. She asks that they remind the graduates of this. Shelly asked if there was a certificate that they could give the students instead of just saying it to them. Melissa liked the idea she will make a phone call and get it in for the for future graduates.
- A follow up with Isaiah about reauthorization. Within the last five years are they would make them gather all documents necessary and it was a lengthy process. Over the past years the process has been revamped. They started including the board attendance minutes postings every year in your file. As well as all other MDE notifications go in there. This is being done so that when the reauthorization begins it's just a formality where you submit your application. The schedule is a meeting in August to get the stuff ready. A meeting in September with Jason councilman who investigates it on behalf of LSSU. The application is then due in October or November 15th. The application is now no more than 25 pages, they have streamline it. By January they start taking applications before the board. Most schools know by March how long the contracts are being renewed for. If it is not renewed for the five years, they will know why. There are many reasons why you will get a three-year renewal, but they will give you what to work on for the next three years when reauthorization comes up again. If it's outstanding, then there is a seven-year contract introduced to them.
- Melissa introduced Angela who expressed interest in being a Board Member at Way Academy Flint. She mentioned she has her application and interview on file. She wanted her to meet the board members. The board members can discuss Angela at the next board meeting. If they approve, she will be nominated by the LSSU board. Melissa will take her information to the board and LSSU would appoint her to the flint board so she can come back and participate as a board member
- MAPSA Charter school week is May 9-13th in person in Lansing. More details to come.

Board Committee Reports

- **Policy Report:** No meeting was held

Announcements

- No announcements

Call to the Public-No public present/no public comments

Adjournment

- Devontae Powell /2nd by Lori wright
- Roll Call Vote: Kelli Glenn (Y) Lori Wright (Y) Howard Buetow (Y) Devontae Powell (Y). Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Minutes submitted by: Alexandra Guzman

Minutes Certification:

Approved minutes of Thursday April 21, 2022 Regular Meeting respectfully submitted,

Lori Wright

Board Secretary

05 / 25 / 2022

Date

Signature Certificate

Reference number: QY6YR-MQPY6-ABPV9-REWML

Signer

Timestamp

Signature

Lori Wright

Email: lori.wright@wayprogram.net

Sent:

26 May 2022 01:37:04 UTC

Viewed:

26 May 2022 01:44:24 UTC

Signed:

26 May 2022 01:44:36 UTC



Recipient Verification:

✓Email verified

26 May 2022 01:44:24 UTC

IP address: 174.25.182.177

Location: Caro, United States

Document completed by all parties on:

26 May 2022 01:44:36 UTC

Page 1 of 1



Signed with PandaDoc

PandaDoc is a document workflow and certified eSignature solution trusted by 30,000+ companies worldwide.

