



**THE MIAMI BOARDING SCHOOL, INC.
(DBA The SEED School of Miami)**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at Noon

Participating Directors: Melanie Damian, Aviva Budd, Michael Davis, Michelle Mason, Cindy Lederman, Rob Gordon, Tery Medina, Sandy Bohrer, Pat Gannon

Participating Guest: Lesley Poole

Participating Staff: Fran Allegra, Dr. Kara Locke, Chyla Graham, Tiffany Graver-Smith

Other Guests: Diana De La Lanza, Belinda Gordon-Battle

Call to Order & Welcome

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at approximately 12:06 p.m. The Chair, Melanie Damian, welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending. Executive session was called and staff was asked to leave. During this time, the Board discussed the finance report. Public session was called to order at 12:15.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2015 Board Meeting (a copy of the proposed minutes was provided in the meeting materials) was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report

Board Member Annual Fundraising Obligation

Ms. Damian discusses year-to-date operational budget and our gap of \$371,000.00. Ms. Damian reports gifts received and committed totaling, \$142,000.00. Ms. Allegra discusses our most recent gifts totaling an additional \$15,000.00 including unsolicited gifts. Ms. Allegra reminds the Board

to continue speaking about SEED Miami in the community to help fulfill our operating gap for this academic school year.

School/Program Update

Dr. Locke presented an overview of the *School Success Measures* dashboard providing the program report which highlighted student and staff achievements. SEED Miami students have completed two of four ACT Aspire Periodic Assessments. Students previously tested in October/November 2015 in English, Reading, Science, and Math. Sixth and seventh grade students both experienced the largest growth on the science assessment. It was noted, on average in Interim 2, that students in both grades performed best on the Reading assessment and students in both grade levels demonstrated consistent growth from Interim 1 to Interim 2. Dr. Locke mentioned the shift in focus is now on grammar. The literacy strategies within all subject areas include additional staff attending trainings at Teachers College at Columbia.

Dr. Locke also described the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) performance. Students were assessed in the following categories: Key Ideas and Details, Craft and Structure, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, Language and Editing, and Text-Based Writing. This assessment provides how we stand against other local charter schools. Ms. Budd expresses her concerns for the math scores. The decline in math performances is speculated to be due in large part to computer knowledge and literacy skills. Dr. Locke assured Ms. Budd we are evaluating new strategies for our professors. Ms. Poole questions how SEED Miami's test scores compare to the other SEED schools. Dr. Locke notes SEED Miami outscored SEED Maryland and SEED DC. Dr. Locke is hopeful SEED Miami students will eventually all have computers and/or desktop computers for each house. Ms. Damian recommended we reach out to local businesses in the community to find computer donations.

Dr. Locke provided an overview of Fountas & Pinnell (F&P) Reading Level Assessment Data for the 2015-2016 school year. Seventh graders are all reading above grade level (above a U).

Dr. Locke discussed the attendance rate measure for the 2015-2016 school year. Attendance at SEED Miami is measured on both Sunday – Friday and Monday – Friday basis. Dr. Locke notes we are trending in the right direction.

Dr. Locke noted Student Enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year. As of October 2015, SEED Miami reported 95 students enrolled. Seven students have exited SEED since October 2015. SEED Miami's current enrollment including sixth and seventh graders is 95 students, 42 girls and 53 boys. Dr. Locke explained why some students who withdrew from SEED Miami were dissatisfied with the program and explained the dismissal procedures.

Human Resources Report

Ms. Allegra provided an overview of the HR report. Dr. Locke noted the Art Teacher position has been fulfilled. Ms. Allegra mentioned a SEED champion, Frank Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong invited a group of TFA mentees to tour SEED Miami. Since this tour, we have received many applications for employment. Dr. Locke encouraged the Board to invite or share information about the Career Fair taking place at SEED on Saturday, March 12.

Legislative Report

Ms. Allegra proudly reports The SEED School of Miami will be fully funded next year. Additionally, most of the funding has been designated as recurring in future state budgets. This is an essential step for our future growth. Ms. Allegra noted, the budget becomes official once the Governor approves it within the coming weeks. The collaborative effort of Ms. Allegra, Ms. Poole, and staff was celebrated. Ms. Allegra highlighted the help of Senator Gaetz and Jeanette Rubio for their dedication to SEED Miami and persistent help in Tallahassee.

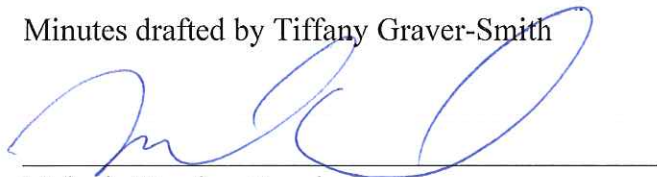
Other Announcements

Ms. Allegra is proud to announce our first basketball team and describes their first game. Ms. Graver-Smith agrees to follow up with the Board regarding the basketball game schedule. Dr. Locke encourages the Board to attend the basketball games especially the first official home game at Barry University.

Mr. Gordon provided an overview of the Robotics Team first competition at Glades Middle. Mr. Gordon is very proud of the work of our robotics team and looks forward to eMerge in April.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM

Minutes drafted by Tiffany Graver-Smith



Melanie Damian, Esquire
Chair, The SEED School of Miami Board of Directors

