



*Our vision is to serve as a BEACON of virtue, truth, and beauty
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benefit society at large.*

BEACON CLASSICAL ACADEMY BOARD of TRUSTEES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
A California Public Charter School
Minutes: May 16, 2017 at 6:00 pm

I. PRELIMINARY

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Board member, Mr. Blasko called meeting to order at 6:15 pm and then the Board went into closed session.

B. ROLL CALL

- Mrs. Karen Azochar-McManus**
- Mr. James Blasko**
- Mr. Mark Liuag ***
- Mrs. Alicia Tripoli**
- Mr. Chris Uribe**
- Mr. Jose Orozco, ATT**

Present	Absent
_____ x _____	_____
_____ x _____	_____
_____ x _____	_____
_____ x _____	_____
_____ x _____	_____
_____ x _____	_____

*Mr. Liuag joined the meeting at 6:20 pm in closed session.

The closed session began at 6:17 pm and ended at 6:54.

II. CLOSED SESSION -

1. Conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: one case

Open session began at 6:56 pm.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Non-agenda items: no individual presentation shall be for more than three (3) minutes and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Ordinarily, Board members will not respond to presentations and no action can be taken. However, the Board may give direction to staff following a presentation.

Mr. Luis Perfecto Sanchez (parent) - I want to talk about bullying. I have two children who attend Beacon. At this school there is no bullying. Children are taught how to respect each other. I want Beacon to stay open.



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Mrs. Morales (parent) - The school has told us to enroll our child in another school next year as a precaution. I am having a hard time deciding where to put my child in another school. I have looked but I haven't found one because Beacon has set such a high standard. I am really hoping that Beacon continues.

Mrs. Lepron (parent and grandparent) - I have my son and my granddaughter here. I have had experiences in other schools because I have older children. When things occurred with them, I spoke to the administrators. They told me that they could not control everything that happens because there are too many students. But at this school they do have control of the students' behavior. Here the children are taught respect. The teachers also show respect. They treat the children here with love and they let the children be children. What other schools don't do. My grandchild says that if they close this school she doesn't want to go to another school. Therefore please take this all into account and don't let this school close, let them have another opportunity.

Mrs. Macias (parent) – This is our first year in the this country. My husband and I have two children, ages 8 and 10 years old. My children did not speak English. We looked for a small school and found Beacon. Even when the school building was closed for a long time, my daughter greatly advanced. She even excelled over children who speak English. Today when we arrived at the school they ran when before my daughter didn't want to stay. We believe that his a good school in all aspects. Although we were told that the school would close. All of the parents are still here and we don't want to leave. Parents who are not here it is because they work or have other obligations, but they are all with us. I have looked for other schools, but I don't want to leave. I will stay here until the last minute. I would like you to help us keep Beacon open. We would all be eternally grateful to you. All of the staff is very important to the children. They make the children feel safe which is the most important thing for us as parents that our children feel safe and happy, and that this helps the children to learn better. Thank you.

Board Comments

Jose Orozco - I was very disappointed by the School District's decision to revoke the school. I think it is an indication that the school never got a good faith opportunity to really keep the school open. But listening to the parents today I feel compelled to support them and to continue with a process to keep the school open. I also want to clarify that it is the School District of National City who is revoking the school, not this School Board. Also, that community is important and these elected officials are not untouchable especially next year 2018, three of them will be up for re-election, so I would urge the community to inform themselves as to whether they are running again for the school board and to remember what they did last week. They voted to shut this



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school down. So tell your friends and family members because only the community can stop this.

Mark Liug - As the Board member that has been here the longest, I have to say that Dr. Van Nice is the one that sets the example for the school and its been her leadership that has led her staff to do all the great things. This commitment comes from the top and that's why I am here. We as the Board serve voluntarily; we don't get paid for this. My commitment was to Dr. Van Nice and her commitment. I am glad to see so many parents here who support that. We hope to see that we can continue that in some way and fashion. I am committed to that even though this would be my last year as a Board member. I feel that we did not get a fair shake from the Board meeting last week. I agree with the other Board member to get actively involved. Tell your friends and your family and let them know that we are not done yet. We will see.

Karen McManus – I was born and raised here in National City. I've known Dr. Van Nice my entire life. This woman is a woman of integrity and I too believe in her vision. It's very disappointing to me that our School Board voted this way. Jose is completely right, there's a way that they will understand what they've done to our community here. I want you to remember that. They are here for us as well. It's not just for the National School District students; it's for Beacon Classical Academy. So you need to reach out, make the phone call, send the email, and let them know how disappointed you are. But I will commit and stand behind you.

- B. For Information: Executive Director's Report:
This is a presentation of information, which has occurred since the previous Board meeting. No report

- C. For Information: Board Member Reports:
This is a presentation of information, which has occurred since the previous Board meeting.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and will be approved/enacted by the Board in one motion in the form listed below. Unless specifically requested by a Board member for further discussion or removed from the agenda, there will be no discussion of these items prior to the Board votes on them. The Executive Director recommends approval of all consent agenda items.



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1. Approve Board Meeting Minutes from April 18, 2017 and May 4, 2017

4/18/17 6 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Abstain 0 Absent

5/4/17 6 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Abstain 0 Absent

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. BCA current enrollment is 125. From 7/26/16 until 5/15/17 our average daily enrollment is 156.77 students and our average daily attendance is 147.37 days. Our total ADA is 94%.
2. Update on plan for tax and benefit repayment of substitute teachers. Dr. Van Nice said that we obtained legal consul and a tax consultant to work with us and she referred to Mr. Navarro to speak. Mr. Navarro confirmed that we contacted several tax professionals including our auditors in order to move forward with 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 tax and benefit repayment plan of substitute teachers. The plan is moving forward but not finalized yet. We are working with the County Office of Education to make sure everything is compliant. We are also waiting for a bid to get the entire scope of work completed.

Mark Liuag asked what the County had to say about treating substitute teachers as temporary employees. Rick responded by saying actually our auditors who work with several other charter schools said they treat their substitute teachers like independent contractors so she referred me to the County. The County business department said they normally treat substitute teachers as temporary employees. Substitute teachers would be given a W2 form to fill out.

Dr. Van Nice stated that all the employees have been contacted so the process has started. We are still making sure we have all the right pieces together as we move forward with the company that will work with us.

3. Update on FERPA apology meetings. The Board had requested that instead of an apology letter sent that the apologies would be face to face. The majority of the apologies were conducted face-to-face. Parents acknowledged the apologies by signing an acknowledgement form. Only 4 out 15 apologies were mailed because the parents had moved or could not meet with us. One mailed apology was acknowledged and returned back to the school. In the apology meetings we explained that even though their child had been recognized for English proficiency we did not have their permission to post their child's name or the number of children being tested when the number fell below 10, we cannot post those scores or say how many were tested. In an attempt to provide evidence to the District and to be transparent with our community that these concerns were



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addressed, the supporting documents were posted with student names blacked out, but some (two) student names were still visible. These parents will receive a second apology.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

1. The Board will consider facts and support for appealing the revocation, and possibly approve a letter of appeal to San Diego County Board of Education.

Chris Kalleberg (teacher) – I am representing the staff. Some teachers are at camp, one is sick, and another one is working. I texted the staff as the first grade teacher here, I asked them if I could speak for all of us. They agreed. As a staff we feel that we have made strong, great headway this year, in spite of everything that happened with all those months of being out of the building and tutoring the children. We feel that we still made great headway with the children and we are excited about our new curriculum that we adopted this year. We are hoping that we can have another year to really prove ourselves. We hope that our Beacon Board sees that we are really melded together as a staff through everything that we have been through, and we would love to be able to work together to see that growth happen next year. We are hoping that you can approve the appeal.

I am James Blasko, the second almost, longest standing board member. Certainly all that Alma has done, makes it disappointing that the School District provided no help at all. We asked on a number of occasions for help and feedback, and to meet. I know Alma has asked for clarification, and we got nothing. We asked for clarification. I'm really disappointed that there is an organization like the School District. I'm from the Navy and when somebody asks you for help, you give them help. I have done inspections before, and I am just really disappointed that we have an organization here that can't provide that, that refused to provide that kind of assistance to a school when we asked for help. Even with the building, we asked if they could help, and they said we don't get involved. Come on. That's my point. I really appreciate the parents. I think this school is really a beacon. This school ought to be a beacon for them; something that they can tout, that they can say that they helped us, to be the best. So they can say look at what we have here in National City. We have a charter school that teaches the classic style of education. Look at what they've done. Look at the parents and the students, look at how they are thriving here. So I am just very disappointed with the School District.



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Mark Liuag – I also want to thank the staff. I think the School District has been very short sighted with looking at substance but not looking at progress made. I think it is more important to show progress. It's that differential from where I started to where I am. It's the act of teaching. Where someone is at, surely has a whole lot of other reasons why they may be at that point of their journey to learn, but are they progressing? That's the thing that is most important to me. I think the School District didn't see that. We didn't start well in this area. The School District, they weren't very supportive from the get go. We tried to be accommodating with them. I echo with my fellow board member, Jim, about trying to work with them. So we are very disappointed, and I am very much supportive of doing an appeal to the County Board of Education, and plead our case with them, and hopefully get a fair and better hearing. That's my discussion and I hope that everyone on the Board supports me, and Jim on that. I would like to make a motion with an appeal to the County.

Jose Orozco - Motion to approve?

Jim Blasko – I second that.

Karen McManus – I third.

The Board voted to approve a letter of appeal - **6 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Abstain 0 Absent**

Mark Liuag – We are going to need your support. I hope the County knows that charter schools have voluntary enrollment. You guys don't have to be here. You want to be here. I don't think you want to be somewhere that is not good. So that's proof in my book that we are doing the right things. The more we can do that, and get your fellow friends and family members agreeing with that, and showing that, and making that very simple case, without all the details of everything else, that you still want to be here, through all the trials and tribulations that we have had in trying to start a charter school, which is not an easy task. It is going be helpful.

2. The Board will consider, review and revote, if necessary, on action items, which occurred when Beacon had 3 Board members and a minimum quorum of 2 members. According to the Charter petition, the Board was to have a minimum of 5 Board members, which would constitute a minimum quorum of 3 members.

The following Board meeting action items and minutes were reviewed and re-voted on.

The board minutes were all approved as amended:

8/25/15, 9/15/15, 12/15/16, 4/12/16, 5/20/16.

4 Ayes 0 Noes 2 Abstain 0 Absent



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3. The Board will review and approve EPA resolutions for 2015-16, 2016-17, and EPA possible revenue projections for 2017-18. EPA projection revenue may be slightly adjusted after the governor's May revise – **Tabled.**

4. The Board will approve the cancellation of Board Meeting for Tuesday, May 23, 2017 in order to possibly reschedule for Tuesday, May 30, 2017.
6 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Abstain 0 Absent / Special Board Meeting

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.