

Caniff Liberty Academy
Board of Directors
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Caniff Liberty Academy
2650 Caniff St.
Hamtramck, MI 48212

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Board President Abu-Shanab.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. The following board members were in attendance:

Present – Mr. Abu-Shanab, President
Absent - Mr. Ali Al-Zaqzuq, Treasurer
Present – Mr. Imad Hamad, Secretary
Absent – Mr. Qurban Choudhury, Vice President
Present – Dr. Elmoataz Ibrahim, Member

A quorum was in attendance to conduct business.

Also in attendance were the following individuals:

Mr. Ahmed Saber, EMAN
Mr. Ehab Hassan, EMAN
Dr. Azra Ali, EMAN
Dr. Lorilyn Coggins, EMAN
Dr. Lawrence Cowger, Caniff Liberty Academy
Ms. Latacha King, Oakland University Charter Schools Office
Mr. Gregory M. Meihn, Legal Counsel (by phone)

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Abu-Shanab and seconded by Dr. Ibrahim to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (Ayes – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Ibrahim). Motion passed - Agenda approved.

No board member indicated having a conflict of interest with respect to any agenda item.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Abu-Shanab and seconded by Mr. Hamad to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 16, 2022, as read. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (Ayes – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Ibrahim). Motion passed - Minutes approved.

Public Comment Relating to Agenda Items

No public comment was provided.

Correspondence

A copy of the correspondence from the Michigan Department of Education regarding the Title III monitoring process was received and entered into the record.

Reports

Mr. Saber welcomed the Board to the April meeting and wished everyone a Happy Ramadan for those who may be observing the month of Ramadan. Mr. Saber congratulated Dr. Cowger on his recent accomplishment of completing his Ph.D. Dr. Ali provided initial highlights on the management company report including enrolment, literacy, and GSRP programming. Dr. Cowger provided a summary of the monthly report with highlights of academics, assessments, staffing, enrollment, compliance, and grants. Dr. Cowger also noted that we have many students who are observing the fast.

Dr. Coggins summarized the March financial reports noting cash on hand, fund balance, and actual to budget percentages for both revenues and expenditures.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

New Business

It was moved by Mr. Hamad and seconded by Dr. Ibrahim to approve the March financial reports as presented. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (Ayes – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Ibrahim). Motion passed – Financial Reports Approved.

It was moved by Mr. Hamad and seconded by Mr. Abu-Shanab that the Board ratify the annual Audit Letter of Engagement with Gardner, Provenzano, Thomas and Luplow for the 2022 audit. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (Ayes – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Ibrahim). Motion passed – Annual Audit Letter of Engagement ratified.

It was moved by Mr. Abu-Shanab and seconded by Mr. Hamad that the Board approve the amended 2021/2022 school calendar as presented. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (Ayes – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Ibrahim). Motion passed – 2021/2022 Amended School Calendar approved.

It was moved by Mr. Abu-Shanab and seconded by Mr. Hamad that the Board approve the 2022/2023 School Calendar as presented. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (Ayes – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Ibrahim). Motion passed – 2022/2023 School Calendar approved.

Closed Session

It was moved by Mr. Hamad and seconded by Mr. Abu-Shanab that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing real property negotiations. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (Ayes – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Ibrahim). Motion passed.

The Board entered closed session at 6:25 p.m.

The Board re-entered open session at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was still available to conduct business.

It was moved by Mr. Hamad and seconded by Dr. Ibrahim that the Board extend an offer to Princeton Educational Management LLC to purchase the building. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (Ayes – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Ibrahim). Motion passed – Offer to Purchase approved.

Other Business

No other business came before the Board.

Authorizer Comments

The April Resource Calendars were provided to the Board.

Ms. King brought comments to the Board from Oakland University as authorizer. She congratulated the student who won the OU book writing contest, noting that she will receive a Kindle and a bound copy of her book. A copy will also be provided to the school. Ms. King reported that the Oakland University Charter Schools Office is seeking accreditation and focus groups are scheduled in May. Board training with Airwin was held on April 13 and is available on the OU website. ESSER training is scheduled for April 21, 2022. She reminded the Board of the available scholarship for the National Charter Schools Conference in June.

Extended Public Comments

There was no extended public comment.

Closing Items

The next regular meeting was announced for May 18, 2022. Mr. Abu-Shanab indicated that he would not be present.

It was moved by Mr. Hamad and seconded by Mr. Abu-Shanab that the meeting be adjourned at 7:06 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Motion passed – Meeting Adjourned.

I certify that these minutes were approved [☒] as read, [☐] as corrected, by the Academy Board at a duly noticed open meeting held on May 18, 2022 at which a quorum was present.

By: 
Its: Secretary