

Caniff Liberty Academy
Board of Directors
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2024
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Caniff Liberty Academy
2650 Caniff St.
Hamtramck, MI 48212

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Abu-Shanab.

Roll Call

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

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

A quorum was in attendance to conduct business.

Also in attendance were the following individuals:

Mr. Ahmed Saber, EMAN
Mr. Ehab Hassan, EMAN
Dr. Larry Cowger, EMAN
Dr. Lorilyn Coggins, EMAN
Mr. Tom Kozak, Caniff Liberty Academy
Ms. Suki Gruesbeck, Oakland University Charter Schools Office

Approval of Agenda

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

Conflict of Interest Inquiry

There were no conflicts of interest indicated by any board member with respect to the items listed on the agenda.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Hamad and seconded by Mr. Abu-Shanab to approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on August 21, 2024, as read. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (Ayes – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Choudhury). Motion passed - Minutes approved.

Public Comment Relating to Agenda Items

No public comment was provided.

Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

Reports

Mr. Saber welcomed the Board to the September meeting and noted that school resumed for the 24/25 school year with the return of students on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. Mr. Saber noted that while spring MSTEP scores have been released, there will be a detailed presentation of the school's results with comparative data next month. The Board was also provided with the link to MiSchoolData.org. NWEA testing is currently in progress. Current enrollment is at 598 students with an average daily attendance rate of 92%. Staff vacancies were identified. Mr. Saber also provided follow up on the offer made to purchase the church building next door. Our offer was declined, and the property is now officially listed for sale. Mr. Kozak and Dr. Cowger provided highlights on student engagement and teacher professional development. Mr. Saber informed the Board that Dr. Cowger is transitioning into the compliance role with EMAN. Mr. Hamad suggested that public safety training could be provided to the staff in addition to training on Artificial Intelligence and related safety precautions.

Dr. Coggins summarized the August financial reports noting cash on hand, fund balance, and actual to budget percentages for both revenues and expenditures. She reminded the board that state revenues do not begin for the fiscal year until October and that it is normal for summer expenses to be paid from fund balance.

It was moved by Mr. Hamad and seconded by Mr. Abu-Shanab to approve the August financial reports as presented. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (AYES – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Choudhury). Motion passed – Monthly financial reports approved.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Saber provided an update on the facility in the management report.

New Business

It was moved by Mr. Hamad and seconded by Mr. Abu-Shanab to approve the updated 2024 Title IX Policy. The vote was unanimous (3/0) in favor of the motion (Ayes – Abu-Shanab, Hamad, and Choudhury). Motion passed – Updated 2024 Title IX Policy approved.

Authorizer Comments

The September Board Briefs were provided to the Board.

Ms. Gruesbeck brought comments from Oakland University and reported on available in-person board training.

Other Business

No other business came before the Board.

Extended Public Comments

There was no extended public comment.

Closing Items

After a brief discussion, the next meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday, October 9, 2024. It was noted that this meeting will include the Fall Education Presentation as well as the presentation of the annual audit.

It was moved by Mr. Abu-Shanab and seconded by Mr. Hamad that the meeting be adjourned at 6:48 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 October 9, 2024 at which a quorum was present.

By:

Its: ~~Secretary~~ *President*