



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2024

4:00 p.m.

27740 Jefferson Ave.

Temecula, CA 92590

and Magnolia Student Center

4020 Jefferson Avenue

Riverside, CA 92504

Present:

Table with 2 columns: Board (Tim Trainor, Teasa Phalen, Cathy Hanson, Marla Martindale) and Staff (Amy Podratz, Tanya Rogers, Natali South, Karl Yoder)

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Trainor called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Action: Approval of Agenda

- Ms. Martindale moved to approve the agenda.
Ms. Hanson seconded.
Vote: 4 Ayes: Hanson, Martindale, Phalen, Trainer; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Ellard; Motion Adopted.

3. Action: Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2023

- Ms. Phalen moved to approve the Minutes from July 25, 2023.
Ms. Martindale seconded.
Vote: 4 Ayes: Hanson, Martindale, Phalen, Trainer; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Ellard; Motion Adopted.

4. Activity: Public Comment

- None

5. Information: Superintendent's Report

- Amy Podratz reviewed the Superintendent's Report in Dr. Hermsmeyer's absence. She provided network-wide updates including announcing the approval of Inland Empire Springs, a new county-wide benefit charter in San Bernardino. Empire Springs' 501(c)3 corporate name will change to Empire Springs Charter Schools, Inc. in order to include the newly formed Inland Empire Springs Charter School. This change indicates that Empire Springs Charter Schools, Inc. consists of more than one charter, and helps to avoid any confusion between the name of the original charter school and the name of the overall nonprofit organization. Empire Springs adopted this change at its February 8, 2024 meeting.

6. Action: Approval of Recoverable Grant Expansion

- Ms. Hanson moved to approve the Recoverable Grant Expansion.
- Ms. Martindale seconded.
- Discussion: Karl Yoder reminded the board that the recoverable grant has been the source of funding for Springs' out-of-state charter expansion efforts. Karl explained that additional funds are necessary to assist with temporary facilities acquisition and other start-up costs for the opening of SPSTN - Empower Academy in Tennessee. This grant will be repaid with interest.
- Vote: 4 Ayes: Hanson, Martindale, Phalen, Trainer; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Ellard; Motion Adopted.

7. Information: Financial Update

- Tanya Rogers reviewed the financial update and explained the breakdown of Springs Inc.'s expenditures year-to-date.

8. Action: Approval of Pechanga Agreement

- Ms. Phalen moved to approve the Pechanga Agreement.
- Ms. Hanson seconded.
- Discussion: Amy Podratz reviewed the agreement with Pechanga for this year's Ignite! conference. This represents a slight increase in the nightly rate (\$10 per night) as well as a slight increase in food costs. Amy will be able to bring forward the final contracts for services for ratification at a future meeting.
- Vote: 4 Ayes: Hanson, Martindale, Phalen, Trainer; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Ellard; Motion Adopted.

9. Action: Approval of Board Travel

- Ms. Matindale moved to approve the long-distance travel for the National Charter Schools Conference.
- Ms. Hanson seconded.
- Discussion: Natali South explained that we are seeking approval for Tim Trainor and Teasa Phalen to join other network board members and staff at the National Charter Schools conference, being held in Boston this June.

- Vote: 4 Ayes: Hanson, Martindale, Phalen, Trainer; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Ellard; Motion Adopted.

10. Information: Upcoming Board Vacancies


- Natali South provided an update on upcoming board vacancies. The board asked Natali to research the history of Empire's co-terminous positions and report back any findings prior to opening up interviews in the coming months.

11. Information: Board Comments

- None

12. Action: Adjournment

- Ms. Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m.
- Mr. Trainor seconded.
- Vote: 4 Ayes: Hanson, Martindale, Phalen, Trainer; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Ellard; Motion Adopted.



Pamela Ellard, Secretary

May 22, 2024

Date