October 16, 2020

The meeting of the State Board of Private Academic Schools convened on Friday, October 16, 2020 via a virtual meeting on Zoom. Public notice of the meeting was published in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Jane Allis, Chairperson.

**Board Members**

Jane Allis  
Carol Lopus  
Dr. Roberta L. Schomburg  
Dr. Cherie Crosby  
Michelle Figlar  
Patrick Lord, Senior Board Counsel

**Staff**

Sara Hockenberry, Assistant Counsel  
Monica L. Washington, Board Secretary  
Renee Shade, Staff  
Tina Weaver, Staff  
Stephanie Nauss, Staff  
Maryanne Olley, Office of Child Development & Early Learning  
Lilian Uzokwe, Staff
ROLL CALL
Jane Allis conducted the roll call of Board members. Representatives of the schools being presented are attached at the end of the minutes.

SUNSHINE ACT MEETING NOTICES
Thursday and Friday Private Academic School Board meetings were published in accordance with the Sunshine Act of 1986.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by C. Lopus the Minutes of the October 16, 2020, meeting of the State Board of Private Academic Schools were approved by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS
Hearing Requests – Patrick Lord
P. Lord reported that are no active hearing requests.

Presentation of Motions – Sara Hockenberry
No motions were presented.

Previously Submitted Applications – Staff
No school applications to present.

NEW BUSINESS
New Supplemental Applications for Board Approval
13 schools submitted supplemental applications for Board approval.

Prodigy Learning Center. The Board requested additional information on the school’s relationship with local IUs and School Districts. Prodigy Learning Center was asked to clarify their plan for professional development. The Board also asked for further explanation on the School’s scheduling and how the School measures student participation.

Upon motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by M. Figlar, Prodigy Learning Center supplemental application was approved with two conditions. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Revised answer to question 11a.
2. Revised answer to question 13.

Summit Academy. The Board commended Summit Academy for their answers regarding how they communicate with student’s home School District.

Upon motion by C. Crosby, seconded by R. Schomburg, Summit Academy supplemental application was approved as presented.

Watson Institute Friendship Academy. The Board commented that the School’s teachers seemed highly qualified and that the School’s use of various centers for education was commendable. The Board asked for clarification on the availability of an art center for students.
The Board asked for clarification on the School’s job shadowing program for preschoolers as well as how they provide opportunities for students to engage with the community.

Upon motion by M. Figlar, seconded by C. Crosby, Watson Institute Friendship Academy supplemental application was approved as presented.

Upon motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by C. Crosby, 10 supplemental applications (Adelphoi Education at Butler, All Kids Are Special, Community Council Learning Academy, Longmore Academy, Mehoopany Nursery School, Mehakey Education Achievement, Mehakey Autism Center, Mehakey Education Center, New Story, Solid Foundations) were approved as presented by unanimous vote.

New Schools and Directors for Board Approval

4 new schools were presented for Board approval.

**ABK Learning Academy.** The Board asked for clarification on the School’s program and how the program’s Director schedules their time regarding program and administrative duties. The Board requested clarification on the teachers’ credentials. The Board also asked for further explanation on the School’s scheduling and the presence of centers for students.

Upon motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by C. Crosby, ABK Learning Academy initial application was approved as presented.

**Adelphoi Education at Williams.** The Board had questions on the School’s progress report and schedule regarding where and how electives take place. The Board also asked the School to clarify their specific process for returning students to their home School District.

Upon motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by M. Figlar, Adelphoi Education at Williams initial application was approved with three conditions. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Revised schedule that shows when electives take place.
2. Revised report card that shows possibility for narratives and electives.
3. Revised answer to question 11f.

**Tarleton School.** The Board asked the School to speak about how they are teaching their students languages. The Board requested further explanation on the School’s use of centers.

Upon motion by C. Crosby, seconded by R. Schomburg, Tarleton School initial application was approved as presented.

**Wesley Kindergarten.** The Board commended Wesley Kindergarten on their transition plan. They asked for further explanation on when the student can utilize centers.
Upon motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by C. Crosby, Wesley Kindergarten initial application was approved as presented.

Directors for Board Approval

Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by C. Lopus, the listing of new Education Directors were approved by unanimous voice vote.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

1. J. Allis sent out a list of revised application questions and is implementing revision suggestions. These revisions include consolidating Special and Regular Ed questions.

2. J. Allis requested staff also provide suggestions on how the application questions could be improved.

3. R. Shade will forward any questions applicants have regarding the application’s questions on tutoring centers to C. Lopus.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business and upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by C. Crosby, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Monica L. Washington
Secretary to the Board