

<b>WAY MICHIGAN ACADEMY</b>
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407 East Fort - Suite 201  
 Detroit, MI 48226  
 Telephone: 313.638.2716      Fax: 313.638.2717

**SPECIAL MEETING  
 WAY MICHIGAN ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DATE: 8/29/2022**  
**TIME: 6:00 ☒ p.m. / ☐ a.m.**  
**LOCATION: WAY MICHIGAN  
 GLOBE BUILDING  
 407 E FORT, SUITE 201  
 DETROIT, MI 48226**

APPROVED

<b>MINUTES</b>
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**MEETING TYPE:    ☐ REGULAR    ☒ SPECIAL    ☐ PROPOSED    ☒ APPROVED**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR.** called the meeting to order at 6:18 ☒ P.M./ ☐ A.M. on Monday, August 29, 2022.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Gregory Brown, Jr., President, Board of Directors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mrs. Amy Long, Vice-President, Board of Directors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mrs. Mandi Bogart, Secretary, Board of Directors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mr. Jesse Donoghue, Treasurer, Board of Directors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

*Exited the meeting at 6:50 and returned at 7:00*

**ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Isaiah Pettway, Superintendent, WAY Michigan Academy  
 Ms. Trena Braswell, Director of Charter Schools, WAY Michigan Academy  
 Mr. James Middleditch, Director of Programs, WAY Michigan Academy  
 Ms. Jean Pashakarnis, WAY Michigan Academy

**OTHERS PRESENT (all or a portion of the meeting)**

Mrs. Vanessa Gulley, Board Liaison, Provision  
 Ms. Jennifer Joubert, Authorizer Representative, The Center for Charters, CMU

***THE PROPOSED AGENDA WAS DISTRIBUTED.***

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**I. PUBLIC COMMENT** *(on agenda items only)*

No public comment.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE Monday, August 29, 2022 MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR. MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA, WITH ADDITIONS UNDER NEW BUSINESS FOR THE INTERVIEW OF MR. COVINGTON AND DISCUSSION OF THE WAY MICHIGAN CREDIT CARD.

**SUPPORT:** VICE-PRESIDENT AMY LONG SECONDED.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**III. APPROVAL OF THE Tuesday, July 19, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR. MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE Tuesday, July 19, 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

**SUPPORT:** SECRETARY MANDI BOGART SECONDED.

**AYE:** BROWN, DONOGHUE    **NAY:** LONG

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**IV. ESP REPORT**

**a. Mr. Pettway**

- Still vetting accounting program software, delayed due to audit
  - Narrowed to Wayne software and Genesee software
    - Seeking auditor's recommendation after audit complete
- Enrollment recruitment;
  - in midst of social media blitz
  - FB taken over by school staff and just had social media training
- Community partnerships
  - 30 schools seeking to partner with; many chartered by CMU
    - Seeking them to feed WAY Mich enrollment
  - Open house upcoming
- CMU Performance report in packet
- Reviewing graduation requirements/credits and will present to the board in the future
- Personnel
  - Seeking SPED teacher which is a critical shortage area
  - Seeking social emotional counselor as part of ESSER III funds
    - Will be shared with one of the other WAY academies
- Appealing to State for highly qualified subs
- Consolidated grant app was due on Aug 12 and was turned in on the 8/5<sup>th</sup>
  - Final allocations retro to July 1
  - Don't expect any lapses

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- Reduction in Title Funds this year
- Still working on MDE Waiver
- Team building exercise on 9/9 in West Bloomfield for all the staff to bring them together

**b. Mr. James Middleditch**

- Reviewed his report data

**V. TREASURER'S REPORT**

- a. **Ms. Pashakarnis** reviewed the submitted report. She also introduced Ms. Dawn Petite the newly hired accountant.
- b. **Pettway** informed the Board that they will receive info directly from Klem regarding a continuity of services and the transfer of payment in about a week  
**President Brown** requested that any information be sent to the board attorney also.
- c. **Mrs. Felicia Williams** reviewed her consultant report submitted to the Board.

**MOTION:** PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR. MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JUNE FINANCIALS AS PRESENTED.

**SUPPORT:** SECRETARY MANDI BOGART SECONDED.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**MOTION:** PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR. MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDS REIMBURSEMENT TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$222,493.08.

**SUPPORT:** VICE-PRESIDENT AMY LONG SECONDED.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**VII. CMU LIAISON UPDATE**

- a. **Ms. Jennifer Joubert** reported:
  - i. Experience Central Michigan , 9/30 for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12th grade students
  - ii. CMU and You Day for 8<sup>th</sup> graders; you can tailor something specific for your school
  - iii. Thanks Treasurer Donoghue for coming to the annual conference

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. None

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

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- a. **MOTION:** PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR. MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED 2022/2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR.

**SUPPORT:** VICE-PRESIDENT AMY LONG SECONDED.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

- b. **Mr. Pettway** noted that all items for the transparency certification are in order on the web except for the grants, which will be updated on September 30, 2022 once the documents are completed.

**MOTION:** PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR. MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSPARENCY REPORT CERTIFICATION AS CONFIRMED AND PRESENTED BY MANAGEMENT.

**SUPPORT:** SECRETARY MANDI BOGART SECONDED.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

- c. **Ms. Pashakarnis** informed the board that the document has been submitted with all correct and updated information.

**MOTION:** PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR. MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL NONPROFIT CORPORATION REPORT .

**SUPPORT:** VICE-PRESIDENT AMY LONG SECONDED.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

- d. **MOTION:** PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR. MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER .

**SUPPORT:** VICE-PRESIDENT AMY LONG SECONDED.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

## **X. OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD**

### **a. Board Retreat**

**President Brown** informed that the original date for the retreat has been cancelled and have received a full 100% refund. The board is working to schedule a date in October, considering use of the Dickinson Wright conference room.

## **XI. CMU Academic Report**

**Mr. Middleditch** reviewed the report, noting:

### **a. Changes**

#### **i. Due to student count**

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- b. Proficiency data correct
    - i. Demographic data was different
    - ii. Change to free and reduced lunch
  - c. Review of Spring Achievement
  - d. Fall to Spring growth
  - e. M-STEP reviewed
  - b. Building in a math expert roll on staff for addtl support
  - c. Review of support systems and resources that will be added to increase academic performance
  - d. Strengthening MTSS this year
- Compliance Calendar provided for the Board, but the items not on there are the dates related to budget amendments
    - **President Brown** requested that all items be placed in portal and emailed to board as well
- e. Candidate Interview**
- i. Mr. Christopher Covington
    - 1. Detroit native
      - a. Back in Detroit for 3 years
    - 2. Educational experiences Cass Tech and MICH State
    - 3. Current teacher at U-Prep
  - ii. Treasurer Donoghue invited to be on board and recommends as a good fit
  - iii. Realized spot not in classroom and this may be an opportunity to understand education from a different lens

**MOTION:** PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR. MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE MR COVINGTON TO THE WAY MICHIGAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

**SUPPORT:** TREASURER JESSE DONGHUE SECONDED.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**f. WAY Michigan Credit Card**

**President Brown** noted:

- i. A desire for clear communication and everyone to be on same page
- ii. Noted that the expectation, by way of policy, with new limit, has been sent out

**Treasure Donoghue** noted that the credit card should not be used for the payment of bills, but used more for petty cash needs

- iii. Things such as Google Ads should go through the AP process

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**Mr. Pettway** responded that the type of payment that Google will accept are limited; done this way to keep the lines from being blurred with WAY accounting

- a. Suggestion to put on WAY card and be reimbursed
- b. Billed in 500 dollar increments as the ads go out until it reaches the monthly deadline date
  - i. **Mr. Pettway** will reach out to Google to see if there is another route for payment; if not, WAY will pay the billed amount, up to the amount budgeted, and place the reimbursement in the packet for monthly board review and reimbursement

**g. Board Discussion**

**President Brown** communicated:

- i. Need to find an approach to work collaboratively
  - 1. communication is not meant to be negative
  - 2. frustrating to go through some of the things regarding what
    - a. the board will be working on the accountability piece with a plan to work professionally
      - i. No desire to micro-manage, but responsible for student achievement and funding
  - 3. there is a buildup and a lack of trust from the board because there have been ongoing issues for so long
    - a. understanding that management is trying to fix the various issues, but there must be clear communication around what is needed to move forward
  - 4. the board is working on the management evaluation
    - a. when board receives reports that don't balance, when name is on something it must be accurate, it proves challenging
      - i. not expecting 100 percent perfection and address is not personal, but the board has ultimate responsibility
    - b. so much transition in WAY and that must be overcome and learn how to move forward and be effective in academic achievement
      - i. Management needs to make a plan and must stick with it

**Mr. Pettway** noted:

- ii. desire to come up with solutions when issues come up
  - 1. have worked in good faith from beginning
    - a. communication feels personal and staff anxiety which makes it difficult to engage in a way that is transparent
    - b. appreciate the perspective to let things go and move forward- but these things have made it to the staff and has been difficult
    - c. need to be collaborative
      - i. Not rejecting changes and improvement, needs to be collaborative and should be a partnership
        - 1. understands boards place
          - a. communication needs to be present

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**President Brown** suggested to begin collaboration:

- President Brown will meet regularly with Mr. Pettway and Mrs. Gulley
- Treasurer Donoghue will meet in monthly finance meeting with Ms. Pashakarnis and Mrs. Williams
  - **Treasurer Donoghue** noted the need to have real dialogue as school may close: need to have significant dialogue to have significant change
  - Need for a meeting between the monthly board meetings to discuss the changes/use as finance
    - committee mtg and executive leadership meeting on a regular basis

**Vice-President Long** suggested creation of a foundation by scheduling a working session where processes are mapped out, assignment of responsibilities, and define key roles

**President Brown** concluded:

1. Will explore dates for a workshop
2. Chain of command; all communication items should go to Mr. Pettway
3. Set a time for the finance committee to meet
4. Schedule a day and time to meet with Mr. Pettway

**Mr. Pettway** stated on behalf of Mr. Klemm: the importance of assuming the best of intent of one another

## **XII. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT**

**None**

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: PRESIDENT GREGORY BROWN, JR. MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:17 ☒ P.M./ ☐ A.M.**

**SUPPORT: VICE-PRESIDENT AMY LONG SECONDED.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

## **MINUTES CERTIFICATION**

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Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

9/9/2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved by the WAY Michigan Academy Board of Directors:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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