

<b>WAY MICHIGAN ACADEMY</b>
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407 East Fort - Suite 201

Detroit, MI 48226

Telephone: 313.638.2716

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

DATE: 12/14/2023

TIME: 6:00 pm

LOCATION: 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 DAVID BEAUMONT called the meeting to order at 6:01 ☒ P.M./ ☐ A.M. on Thursday, December 14, 2023.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Dr. David Beaumont, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ms. Marquita Tharpe, Vice-President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Dr. Tamara Halliburton, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Dr. Schequita Owens, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

**ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Isaiah Pettway, Superintendent, WAY Michigan Academy

Mr. James Pack, Director of Programs, WAY Michigan Academy (**Virtual**)

Ms. Madeline Black, Executive Director, WAY

Ms. Sherry Lynem, Interim Finance Director

**OTHERS PRESENT (all or a portion of the meeting)**Mrs. Vanessa Gulley, Board Liaison, Provision (**Virtual**)

Mrs. Rachel Horne, Board Liaison, Provision

Mr. Fred Borowski, Field Operations, CMU

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

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

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE Thursday, December 14, 2023 MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: VICE-PRESIDENT MARQUITA THARPE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 MEETING AGENDA WITH CHANGES: FY 23/24 BUDGET AMENDMENT TABLED UNTIL THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING TO PROVIDE MORE TIME TO PREPARE; FINANCIAL REPORTS BE CHANGED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT.

SUPPORT: PRESIDENT DAVID BEAUMONT SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF THE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: TREASURER SHEQUITA OWENS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 2023 MEETING MINUTES.

SUPPORT: PRESIDENT DAVID BEAUMONT SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

## a. Application &amp; Enrollment Information Form

- Mrs. Gulley shared that the Application and Enrollment Form is a document that is turned in to CMU.

Mr. Pettway shared that the re-enrollment process beings the 1<sup>st</sup> week in March and ends the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in April. These dates are based on the yearly calendar with CMU.

## b. RFP Process

- President Beaumont shared that he has had good conversation with legal counsel regarding the RFP process, and that she is very much in-tune to the charter school industry.

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MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT THARPE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WAY MICHIGAN'S LEGAL COUNSEL TO CONTINUE WITH THE RFP PROCESS.

SUPPORT: TREASURER SHEQUITA OWENS SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

- President Beaumont asked if there is a document available for the Provision Agreement Extension.

Mrs. Gulley stated that there is no document. The previous agreement would remain the same, as it provides an opportunity to extend the current agreement until June 30, 2024.

President Beaumont shared that he needs more clarity regarding the Budget Amendment and that further discussion regarding the Provision Agreement Extension take place after agenda items VIII AND IX.

MOTION: VICE PRESIDENT THARPE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION & ENROLLMENT FORM.

SUPPORT: PRESIDENT DAVID BEAUMONT SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## VIII. ESP REPORTS

### a. WAY Mich Superintendent Report

- Mr. Pettway shared that will need President Beaumont's signature on a form that will give Ms. Lynem needs level 5 access to the WAY Michigan Grant System. President Beaumont stated that he thought that was already completed. Mr. Pettway stated that the form was previously submitted but it was never signed.
- Mr. Pettway stated that one of the issues with the drop in enrollment is from the loss of two integral partnerships that the Academy previously had that funneled students into their program. They are looking for ways to replace those partnerships. They are working with Team Wellness, who have approximately 60 Middle School/High School aged students that they are looking to offer an educational component to within their program. Currently 3 students have already been enrolled from their program.
- Mr. Pettway provided highlights on the following:
  - Current enrollment is 128.
  - Three applications that were in process and are now completed, and 2 additional applications in process.

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- One student has graduated, and a family of 3 have withdrawn from the Academy to enroll in a brick and mortar school.
  - Working with the City of Detroit to find ways to streamline the enrollment process.
  - Kudos to Fred and Sherry (CMU) for their assistance in finding more efficient and effective ways to provide reporting to the Board.
- **Mr. Pettway** shared that the landlord is looking for feedback regarding the proposed extension of the lease. He advised the landlord that he would let the Board know. **President Beaumont** stated that he spoke with the Board Attorney, however, he will circle back with her and give him a call.
  - **Mr. Pettway** shared that the graduation rate went from 23% to over 45%. The goal is to have a 67% graduation rate by the end of 2025. **President Beaumont** stated that we need very specific strategies, as the enrollment trend does not look good. **Ms. Black** stated that that is very apparent, and we are looking at partnerships and solid plans to put together and present to the Board.

b. WAY Mich Director Report

- **Mr. Pack** provided highlights on the following:
  - 24 Middle School students and 101 High School students earning 58 credits total
  - Grades 6-10 surpassed their 0.50 credit requirement
  - Progress of LIVE Course Development

c. NWEA Reporting

- **Mr. Pack** discussed the following:
  - Strong growth in Math for 2022-2023
  - Improvement in Achievement for 2023-2024
  - Strong growth in Reading for 2022-2023
  - Slight decline in median achievement but still above the median

**Secretary Halliburton** asked what the relationship with parents is.

**Mr. Pack** stated that the Parent Liaison has monthly parent meetings and provides updates on various things going on at the Academy, State testing, as well as resources for student performance. In addition, the Mentor sends out monthly progress reports.

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Mr. Pettway shared that parents are able to schedule a conference with the Mentor as well.

President Beaumont asked how Academy news is shared with parents.

Mr. Pack stated that Points of Pride are included in the monthly newsletter. In the New Year, he hopes to start a separate Director's Newsletter as well.

Mr. Pettway stated that information is sent out via social media, and parental and student blasts are sent out via Centric.

## IX. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

### b. Approval of November 2023 Payables Transfer

- Ms. Tharpe shared that the Finance Committee has two very good meetings and thanked Treasurer Owens and Ms. Lynem for being available. She also provided highlights on the following:
  - Postponing the Budget Amendment until next month
  - How the finance information will be presented going forward
  - Ms. Lynem will only present an outline of what we are actually reimbursing WAY Program for, all monies received, and the payroll liabilities

President Beaumont asked if this information would come to the Board or just the Finance Committee.

Vice-President Tharpe stated that this information will come to the Board, but the Finance Committee will have already dived into it. She also stated that the Finance Committee will meet during the week of the Board meetings.

Treasurer Owens stated that she will download the bank transactions on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month and send them to Ms. Lynem.

**MOTION: PRESIDENT BEAUMONT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2023 PAYABLES TRANSFER AMOUNT OF \$161,343.20**

**SUPPORT: VICE-PRESIDENT MARQUITA THARPE SECONDED.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### c. Provision Agreement Extension

- President Beaumont stated that Ms. Lynem spoke with confidence that we would surpass our budget number. We did not get close, and we are not prepared to ask Provision to work for free. We need their help to get through Reauthorization.

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Ms. Lynem stated that the original budget did not include an amount for the entire year for Provision.

President Beaumont shared that what we approved in the budget was for 6 months, but the original conversation that was presented was that we could fund it for a year if we did certain things.

Ms. Lynem stated that the amount was \$27,000 for 6 months.

President Beaumont asked if we would burn into our Fund Balance.

Ms. Lynem stated yes.

Vice-President Tharpe stated that Provision does an invaluable service right now, and we ask them to trust us, so she leans towards extending it.

Treasurer Owens shared that they would be a good resource for us and believes it is a good idea to extend their contract.

Secretary Halliburton asked if we are currently in a deficit.

President Beaumont stated that if he heard correctly, the Budget Amendment will tell how much of the Grant Funding will offset the enrollment deficit.

MOTION: SECRETARY HALLIBURTON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROVISION AGREEMENT EXTENSION UNTIL JUNE 30, 2024

SUPPORT: VICE-PRESIDENT MARQUITA THARPE SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. AUTHORIZER COMMENTS

- Mr. Borowski provided highlights on the following:
  - The Academy should hear news about their Reauthorization within the next 60 days.
  - Be targeted and aggressive with your marketing campaigns.
  - Board vacancy will go before the CMU Board on February 15<sup>th</sup>

XIII. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

XIV. BOARD COMMENTS

None.

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## XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: SECRETARY TAMARA HALLIBURTON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:15 ☒ P.M./ ☐ A.M.

SUPPORT: VICE-PRESIDENT MARQUITA THARPE SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

*Rachel Horne*

Recording Secretary

12/19/2023

Date

Approved by the WAY Michigan Academy Board of Directors:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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