

Taylion High Desert Academy

Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa
27984 Highway 189, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92382

Google Meeting Number 1-636-888-0062 PIN 138 857 115#

A. Preliminary

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:41 pm on August 2, 2023 by Kimberly Tucker.

2. Board Roll call

Current	Present	Absent
Tadios Belay	X	
Elizabeth Hulseley	X	
Kimberly Tucker	X	
Destiny Irons	X	

Additional Attendees: Zach Wolfe, Cory Cavanah, Shannon Smith, Brenda Congo, Dr. Tim Smith, Dr. Jodie Radford, John Lemmo, Karen Ruffner

Items Scheduled for Action

1. Approve Minutes from June 15, 2023 Board Meeting – Kimberly Tucker

Motion: Hulseley

Second: Irons

Vote: Belay X Hulseley X Tucker X Irons X

Information/Actions: Board vote approved to 4 to 0

2. Approve LMEG Contracts– A motion was made to add this presentation and presentation to the next meeting’s revised agenda. Since this is a board retreat meeting, the motion was made and approved to add the LMEG Contracts to the next board meeting in September.

Motion: Belay

Second: Hulseley

Vote: Belay X Hulseby X Tucker X Irons X
Information/Actions: Board vote approved 4 to 0 .

Communications

1. **Charter School Finances 101** - Cory Cavanah, president of CBO, presented that he had been consulting since 2010 and working solely with independent studies charter schools for eight years which has grown to between 40-50 charters including Arizona schools. Zach Wolfe, also from CBO, discussed the difference of between non-classroom based vs classroom based schools. Cory and Zach collaborate to support the financial interrogation of the non-classroom based independent studies charter schools.

Budget passage at state level a few weeks ago created a new action group in the state of CA to move forward with focusing on finances in non-classroom based schools – schools could see some drastic changes in the coming few months concerning this focus. Zach and Cory are on top of it and will keep the board informed. Dr. Smith mentioned his appreciation of this support and emphasized the importance of the focus on these financials since it's a Funding Determination year. Zach added that one real issue facing non-classroom based schools is that they are captured with the virtual school model which is extremely different concerning financial needs and overhead. He is questioning what the state's focus group will be determining due to the differences between these school types. A discussion ensued concerning the relevance and importance of the flexibility of charter schools as demonstrated during the Covid pandemic.

Financial deadlines were stressed once again with focus on the following upcoming reports - first & second interim report, Taylion's annual audit, and the LCAP (which needs to be approved each year in July). The LCAP is what drives the school's budget and was approved before July 1 by Taylion. Shannon Smith mentioned that Dr. Jodie was hired to work closely with the LCAP as it becomes even more of a priority for all schools. These items all need board approval.

Zach reviewed the workings of attendance and how it translates into ADA and funding which is another main focus throughout the school year. Zach continued with explanation of further funding/LCFF (Unrestricted State Revenues) and continued with explaining the Restricted Grant State Fund (supplemental and not supplanting). Taylion receives grants including: Prop 28, SPED, Title 1, 2, &4, Restricted Lottery, ESSER 3, CSI, etc. Zach then took a deeper dive into the funding allotted through the LCAP so as to be able to justify and support the financial aspect.

It was then discussed that the last board meeting of the upcoming school year will be on June 18th which will be the same day as graduation.

2. **Brown Act training given by John Lemmo** – Mr. Lemmo reviewed the details required of charter school board meetings per the 2023 laws including: remote meetings/call relegations, emergency meetings, agenda posting, SB126 (teleconferencing for various resource centers), litigation, closed sessions, number of minutes allowed for each speaker during public comments (all speakers need to be given the same amount of time – 3 minutes each is often allotted), Just-Cause Teleconferencing (Mr. Lemmo discouraged charter schools from using this), conflict of interest, and rules & responsibilities of the board (i.e. monitoring of the budget). The bottom line is that charter business should be conducted in a public way and if an item is not on the agenda, it doesn't exist. Clarification was requested by Ms. Smith about teleconferencing and SB126, and Mr. Lemmo offered explanations.
3. **Principal Report** – Brenda Congo: 2022-23 Recap
Leadership team grew with Ildi Clark and Dr. Jodie, WASC was approved for six years and we are grateful for Dr. Jodie's contribution as well as the efforts of entire team/staff. The WASC review timing was perfect since it lead directly into the writing of the LCAP so they align quite well. Additionally, the staff learned a lot about their school.
Over the past year, Taylion has developed a closer relationship to our sponsoring district, Adelanto Elementary School District. Ms. Smith added that community outreach will be added to support our superintendent's motto for the year of "Being Kind". Our staff and students will be participating in the district and community's upcoming events.
Goal is to hit the 800 enrollment cap and hold that. Mini lessons are being implemented with collaboration of lead teachers, Jason Elliot, Danell Stephenson, Taylor Smith, and Mr. Shannon.
Additional goals include: striving to fill all staff positions to be able to service all 800 students and continue to refine last year's programs. Ms. Congo presented the Enrollment, Engagement, Achievement plan with a focus on parent/guardian inclusion and input. Past year assessments completion and performance were reviewed. Attention will be given to attendance claiming and claiming will be reviewed and supported. For curriculum, Taylion is growing the College and Career classes to prepare students for their futures which also include the CTE courses.
4. **Dr. Jodie Radford update** – Dr. Radford began by explaining that Fridays are focused for reflecting on data, MTSS, and the usage of mini-lessons to support the learning needs. Professional development will include how to support tutors, teachers working with tutors, constructing lesson plans, etc.
5. Next Regular Board Meeting Date September 13, 2023, at 6:00pm. This may be canceled if there are no agenda items requiring approval or rescheduled if needed. Special meetings may be scheduled as needed.

C. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:17 **p.m.** by Kimberly Tucker.

Taylion High Desert Academy

Board of Director Members

Board Members:
Tadios Belay Board Chairman tadi2001@gmail.com 510-328-0003
Elizabeth Hulseley Board Member ehulseley@goodwillsocal.org 702-479-8210
Kimberly Tucker Board Secretary/Treasurer Tuckersbeach09@yahoo.com 804-467-0955
Destiny Irons Board Member destinyann777@gmail.com 760-846-0750