

Minutes for Grace Schools Charter Authority, LLC Board Meeting October 03, 2022

Call to Order

A regular meeting of Grace Schools Charter Authority, LLC was held on October 03, 2022 in Westminster Hall, Conference Room A. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. (EST) and was presided over by the president of the board Joy Lavender.

Attendees

Roll call of voting members in attendance included Dr. Dennis Gaerte, Joy Lavender, and Paul Blair.

Staff in attendance included Dr. Tim Ziebarth and Beth Bessinger.

Guests in attendance were Matt Wolf and Holly Wilson with Valor Classical Academy.

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the Agenda as presented was made by Joy Lavender and seconded by Dr. Dennis Gaerte. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve as amended the May 2022 meeting minutes was made by Dr. Dennis Gaerte and seconded by Paul Blair. The motion was unanimously approved.

Status of Quorum

Joy Lavender declared the status of quorum had been met for this public hearing.

New Business

A. Valor Classical Academy- Charter Application

a. Presentation by staff

- i. Dr. Ziebarth described the background of the Valor Classical Academy application process and results including the internal review, external review, public hearing and formal interview with the Valor board.
- ii. Dr. Ziebarth reviewed the Charter Application Review Summary.
- iii. Dr. Ziebarth clarified that following the formal board interview that Matt Wolf submitted two additional financial reports that addressed building contingencies and Escrow Account amount.

b. Questions

- i. Board Member Joy Lavender inquired about the legal review. Dr. Ziebarth answered that the legal review occurs during the entire process
- ii. Board Member Dr. Dennis Gaerte inquired about the written comments and if any new issues were brought up through the submissions. Dr. Ziebarth answered that no new issues were brought up.

- iii. Board Member Paul Blair inquired about the comparison of summaries of past rubrics to the current proposed charter. Dr. Ziebarth answered that it was right in scope with recommendations in the past.
 - iv. Board Member Dr. Dennis Gaerte inquired about the pre-opening checklist and what happens if it is not completed. Tim confirmed that charter agreement will not be penned.
- c. Presentation of request by organizer
- i. Holly described the benefits of a classical education compared to traditional public school.
 - ii. Holly described in greater detail their Multi-Tiered System of Supports
 - iii. Holly provided the board with the current status in regards to their Head of School search. Holly provided additional information on their process for hiring teachers and additional staff.
 - iv. Matt Wolf presented more in-depth details regarding their pending lawsuit against Carmel Clay School District
 - v. Matt reviewed their building contingency plans from the additional financial reports they submitted prior to the board meeting. One budget scenario included a potential grant and the second budget scenario assumed the grant is not received.
 - vi. Matt shared the leasing cost per square foot that they could afford paying and how that relates to the average rate in Hamilton County.
- d. Questions
- i. Board Member Paul Blair inquired about the additional proposed financial reports and how the numbers were calculated. Matt Wolf explained a portion of funds from the contingency and capital improvement line items were dispersed to the operating lease line item.
 - ii. Board Member Paul Blair inquired about the confidence they feel in the proposed budget. Matt Wolf explained that he has prior experience with new school budget planning. He voiced complete confidence they could operate in the revenue listed.
 - iii. Board Member Joy Lavender requested clarification on the curriculum and mentioned the claims from individuals at the public hearing and online submissions that suggested the curriculum is religious. Holly Wilson clarified that the curriculum is not religious and the Barney Charter School Initiative is a secular outreach of Hillsdale College.

Approval of 5-year Charter

- A. Paul Blair made the motion to accept the Valor Classical Academy charter application as it has been presented today. Dr. Dennis Gaerte seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with members Paul Blair, Joy Lavender and Dr. Dennis Gaerte

Announcements

No announcements

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Dennis Gaerte and seconded by Joy Lavender. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m. (EST).

Dennis E. Gaerte, Ph.D.

Dr. Dennis Gaerte, Secretary
Grace Schools Charter Authority, LLC

12/14/22

Date of Approval