

Board Meeting Minutes

W-A-Y Academy Detroit

(Annual Reorganizational Board Meeting)

Date: Tuesday June 20, 2023

**Members present: Danielle Bascomb, Patricia Moesner, Laura Chavez, Sheila Flanagan
Michael Murray**

**Others present: Cameron Nichols, Trena Braswell, Matthew Bolduc, Sherry Lynem, Isaiah
Pettway, and Alexandra Guzman.**

Meeting Called to Order @ 6:15 pm

Roll Call Attendance

Michael Murray (Wayne County)

Laura Chavez (Wayne County)

Sheila Flanagan (Wayne County)

Patricia Moesner (Wayne County)

Danielle Bascomb (Wayne County)

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Motioned by Patricia Moesner/ 2nd by Danielle Bascomb

Roll Call Vote: Michael Murray (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y) Laura
Chavez (Y) Sheila Flannagan (Y). Motion carries.

III. Call to the Public:

- Read by Michael Murray-no public present/no public comments.

IV. Motion List

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting, May 16, 2023

Motioned by Laura Chavez/ 2nd Patricia Moesner

Roll Call Vote: Michael Murray (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y)
Laura Chavez (Y) Sheila Flanagan (Y). Motion Carries.

B. Election of Board Officers

Motion to Accept the reaffirming of the board:

- Board President-Michael Murry
- Vice President- Patricia Moesner
- Secretary- Sheila Flannagan
- Treasurer- Laura Chavez

Motioned by Danielle Bascomb / 2nd Laura Chavez

Roll Call Vote: Michael Murray (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y)
Laura Chavez (Y) Sheila Flanagan (Y). Motion Carries.

C. **Legal Counsel Designation:** Current legal counsel is Miller Johnson. The Legal Counselor's name is Kevin Sutton.

D. **Audit Firm Designation:** Is Allen C Johnson. This is their 2nd year. Just a reminder to the board, this law firm is specifically chosen because of the ESSR funds were awarded in the amount of over \$700,000. There must be a single audit on this funding because of the large sum the school received.

E. **Account Designation/Depository:** Chase Bank

F. **Designated Signatory:** Board President, Michael Murry and Board Treasurer, Laura Chavez.

G. **Civil Rights Representative:** Superintendent, Isiah Pettway

H. **Title IX Representative:** Superintendent, Isiah Pettway

I. **Newspaper Designation:** The local newspapers are Detroit Free Press, Detroit News and El Central.

J. **Homeless Liaison Representative:** Superintendent, Isiah Pettway

K. **CAO/Budget Timeline Resolution:** The Chief Administrative Officer is the Board Treasurer, Laura Chavez. The Budget Timeline Resolution says that the board will follow the state's budget timeline for the final budget. The final budget needs to be approved by June 30th of the fiscal year.

L. **Board Corresponding Agent:** Supt. Isaiah Pettway.

M. **FOIA Representative:** Superintendent, Isiah Pettway.

N. **Posting Resolution:** States that the postings will be posted on the website and in a visible place at both campuses.

O. **Electronic Funds Transfer Officer:** Is Board President, Michael Murray, and he has designated the Finance Director of WAY Program which is Sherry Lynem.

P. **504 Contact Person:** Building Director

Q. **Bonding of President, Treasurer, Bank Authorized Representative:** Bonding on behalf of the board that allows them to operate as agents of the board without personal liability.

R. **AHERA Officer:** Superintendent, Isiah Pettway.

S. **Compliance with Laws:** Resolution that the board will comply with all state and federal laws regarding education.

T. **School Safety Liaison:** The director, currently is Mr. Cameron Nichols.

Motion to Accept Letter C-T Designations

Motioned by Laura Chavez/ 2nd by Danielle Bascomb

Roll Call Vote: Michael Murray (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y)

Laura Chavez (Y) Sheila Flanagan (Y). Motion Carries.

Correspondence

- **None**

LSSU Authorizer's Liaison's Report

Mr. Green was absent. No presentation.

Educational Service Providers Report

Superintendent Pettway shared the following:

Program Updates (W-A-Y Programs)

- Executive Director, Ms. Madeline Black, has put in place some changes with the leadership team.
- She decided to eliminate the position of the Director of Charter School, As well as restructuring the positions at WAY Academy.
- Ms. Trena Braswell, currently the Director of Charter Schools, was offered the position of Director of WAY Academy.
- Mr. Cameron Nichols, currently the Director of WAY, was offered the position of Program Coordinator.
- Mr. Matthew Bolduc, currently the program coordinator, was offered the position of Math Interventionist. After 6 years of service at WAY Academy, he submitted his resignation-
- Supt. Pettway wanted to inform the board of the proposed changes and the positions that were offered, although they are not yet official. They have not yet accepted the positions but must decide by tomorrow (6/20).
- The changes will be reflected in the proposed budget for the next school year.
- The idea was to make the board aware of the structure of leadership changing for the next school year. The reasoning given for the changes is to be able to hire more teaching staff.
- Board President Murry asked Mr. Bolduc if he had anything else lined up, Mr. Bolduc replied he currently does not, but he has a second job at a hardware store and plans to work more hours in the meantime.
- Supt. Pettway introduced Sherry Lynem as the Director of Finance.
- Board Member Flannagan asked if he could confirm and or explain the current structure. Supt. Pettway explained, currently it is the Superintendent and then Director of Charter Schools that serve something like a superintendent. Mr. Nichols is the Director for WAY Detroit. Mr. Bolduc is currently the program coordinator at the West Campus. The Director and program coordinator positions already exist. For the next year, Ms. Braswell current position, the Director of Charter Schools, will be eliminated. Ms. Braswell was offered Mr. Nichols position as Director and Mr. Nichols was offered Mr. Bolduc current position, program coordinator. Mr. Bolduc was offered the position as a Math Interventionist for the District, which was his previous position.

Enrollment Recruitment Marketing

- The enrollment goal is 200 students for the next school year. The enrollment currently is 210 for WAY Academy Detroit. 94% of eligible students for reenrollment have completed reenrollment and are expected to come back next year.

- Recruitment efforts will be done have been planned and will be done over the summer.

Personnel Updates

- No new updates.

LSSU Legislative Authorizer Updates

- Last year the board signed a one-year agreement for the lease for the West Campus. This lease ends June 30, 2023. The landlord has agreed to the terms and to extend the lease. There will be about a \$6,000 increase from the base rent because of inflation. The Archdiocese is having a meeting tomorrow to vote on it. The idea was to have it ready to present to the board but unfortunately it has not been voted on their end. It will be ready to present to the board in July and the new lease and rate will start after.
- Supt. Pettway thanked the board members for attending graduation. There were 14 students that graduated. Board Member Chavez shared how heartwarming and beautiful the ceremony and decorations were.
- Board President Murry asked about the status of the new building. Supt. Pettway shared that the realtor had actually reached out to him to see if they were still interested in going through with the process, he shared the same parameters with him, and they will be working with him on potential sites. The lease is annually and will need to be renewed every year moving forward until they find a permanent place. Board president Murry asked how long he thinks it will be until they find something? Supt. Pettway believes it will be short because there are many possible buildings.

Director Report

Director Cameron Nichols shared the following about the Southwest Campus:

Public Act 48 Report (End of the Year Reporting)

- In Math, 4% of students met the Achievement Target.
- In Math 35% of the students met the growth target. Meaning students didn't meet their target but they did show growth.
- In Math, the Median was 32%.
- In Reading, 11% of students met the Achievement Target.
- In Reading, 24% of the students met the growth target. Meaning students didn't meet their target but they did show growth.
- In Reading, the Median was 9%.
- The highest achievement subgroups noted were the Females. They obtained 43.5 point in Math and 42.5 points in Reading. The Males obtained 29 points in math and 6.5 points in Reading. The English Learners performed well with 32 points in Math than 9.5 points in Reading.
- Board Pres. Murry asked if there is a subgroup that he thinks did not meet their expectations. Mr. Nichols shared that as a whole group the students' growth was good, but they could be better. He believes the achievement part, not reaching their targets is because they don't know or understand their targets. Part of the School Improvement Plan is to import test preparation. Letting students know prior to taking the exam what target they need to achieve.

- Board Member Patricia Moesner asked why only 6% of the male students that took the exam obtained achievement compared to the female students.
- Supt Pettway shared for context last year was at zero. The attendance ratio of female students that come to school more often than the male students. Many of the students either have a language or comprehensive barrier. In the winter, they hired a reading interventionist to work with students and since then they have seen a huge increase in the data.

Enrollment, Attendance and Credit Attainment Report

- WAY Academy Southwest has 101 students enrolled for this month. There are 5 potential new students that met with Mr. Nichols about the expectations. There are 15 applications that need to be reviewed for possible enrollment in August.
- Total credit attainment for the month of May is 74.33.
- Mr. Nichols shared that this is the 4th time this school year that the students earn over 70 credits. WAY Academy Detroit have earned 952 credits in the past year. Last year, between both campuses they obtained a total of 766 credits. This year they earned 186 more credits than last year. 81% of those credits are coming back to the school, they will be able to retain those students and credits.
- Average Credit Attainment for the month was 0.74 credits.
- Supt. Pettway shared that the average credit attainment per student is the highest it has ever been since the beginning of WAY Academy. They are predicting, based off the data with the large credit attainment earned this year, there will be a significant increase in graduates within the next year or so.
- The grade with the highest Average Credit Attainment was the 12th graders with an average of 1.38 credits.
- The monthly attendance was 52%.
- Board member Flanagan asked with the change in the administration structure do they feel they will be able to continue the momentum to maintain the credit attainment for the next school year. Are there any plans for that superintendent?
- Supt. Pettway shared that this change recently happened within the last couple of days they haven't had an opportunity to sit down and collectively meet. He shared that he thinks this will be a shock to the system because they have built the system for the last two years. There will be some fall out, but the goal is to minimize that and find a safeguard so they can move on. The individuals have not accepted the positions.
- Board Member Flanagan asked if there were other leadership changes in any of the schools.
- The Director of Charter schools served all schools and with the elimination of the position yes, they will be impacted. Other than that, the leadership structure in those schools have not changed. This was only within the school structure at WAY Detroit.
- Board Member Chavez shared when they think about consistency and how the students will be affected, does that mean they will be split between both campuses to staff. Mr. Nichols replied as Director he was already being split; Ms. Black has not decided which campus he will be stationed but it won't be at both.
- Supt. Pettway mentioned that if Mr. Nichols accepts the position, he will most likely be stationed at the Southwest campus because that is where he started. Mrs.

Braswell will be at the West campus because that is where the void will be, and she will be Responsible of coordinating at both sites like Mr. Nichols has been doing.

- Board President Murry asked if Mr. Bolduc position or role was more like a mini-Director.
- Supt. Pettway confirmed that the program coordinator was like was site leader. This is the role Mr. Nichols will go into if he accepts.
- Board Member Chavez asked if, this was a demotion? Supt. Pettway confirmed he said yes. It is a step down in roles. If they do accept the positions.
- Board President Murry asked with all the changes how does his role as superintendent change? Supt. Pettway replied, he will have to absorb the responsibilities of the Director of charter schools.
- Board member Chavez asked if they believe this will work? Supt. Pettway replied the goal is to make it work as much as they can. Again, the executive Director Ms. Black made the decision to do this because micro schools are no longer in place. She felt the need to add additional teaching staff.
- Board President Murry asked Supt. Pettway to explain micro schools to the board members. Centric learning is the educational platform where the students obtain their online work and classes. Three years ago, they added to the online platform something called cohort classes. This was one of the things that the board raised concerns about because of the cost of micro school and tutoring. Board President Murry clarified that it wasn't necessarily the cost, but that it was being underutilized. They were still being charged, even though the students were missing sessions.
- Supt. Pettway agreed tutoring was being underutilize and micro schools were being paid with ESSR funds. These funds were going to run out in 2024. They were trying to negotiate with the vendor, and they decided to pull the service. Ms. Black solution is to hire more teachers to work with students in the building. As a result, the restructure in the leadership team.
- Board Member Chavez asked that because of this restructure, approximately how many teachers will be hired. Supt. Pettway answered one teacher, he believes or member.
- Chavez stated they are moving a leadership position for seeing it on to the superintend it three people are getting a demotion and only one teacher is being hired.
- Board Member, Moesner asked with the step down and rules are people going to negatively be stopped down financially also, where is the extra income going.
- Supt. Pettway confirmed. He shared this is a conversation he believes should be with Ms. Black. He has only shared with him the matrix that was used to make these decisions he confirm that from a factual standpoint there will be a shock to the system as they figure out how they how to navigate it. Yes, that's not to say that they won't rebound. They probably will if the right people are in place that will be the challenge.
- board member Patricia Moesner, and Mrs. Bascomb stated that they do not agree with taking away income from staff members who have been doing a good job board.

Motion to go into closed session for discussion.

Motioned by Laura Chavez/ 2nd by Michael Murry

Roll Call Vote: Michael Murray (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y)
Laura Chavez (Y) Sheila Flanagan (Y). Motion Carries.

Motion to come out of closed session.

Motioned by Laura Chavez/ 2nd by Patricia Moesner

Roll Call Vote: Michael Murray (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y)
Laura Chavez (Y) Sheila Flanagan (Y). Motion Carries.

- Board Member Flannagan shared she appreciated all the hard work that this team has done.
- Board Member Chavez shared that within the past 5 years as a board they have always asked for stability. They have asked for a team that truly saw that. To have a team that the board defines as a cohesive team and then have this happen is not okay. They felt like this was the wrong way to inform the board about this drastic decision.

Director Matthew Bolduc shared the following about the West Campus:

Public Act 48 Report (End of the Year Reporting)

- In Math, 4% of students met the Achievement Target.
- In Math 20% of the students met the growth target. Meaning students maybe didn't meet their target but they did show growth.
- In Math, The Median was 25%.
- In Reading, 3% of students met the Achievement Target.
- In Reading, 28% of the students met the growth target. Meaning students maybe didn't meet their target but they did show growth.
- In Reading, The Median was 18%.
- The highest achievement subgroups noted are Females that obtained 30.5 in Math and 42 in Reading. Males obtained 19 in math and 11 in Reading.
- WAY Academy West Campus has 86 students enrolled this month. They have around 4 new students.
- The Average Credit Attainment is **0.52** credits.
- The Average Credit Attainment by grade was the **12th graders** with **0.95** Credits.
- The monthly attendance was **55%**.
- Monthly Points of Pride:
 - There were two field trips within the last month. One was to the 36th district court and then Pizza Hut.
 - They are planning a small last day of school celebration for the students and providing pizza.
 - Board President Murry asked how does Ms. Bolduc support in the west campus.
 - He shared that he roams the building to provide support to the teachers, he teaches his own math lessons and drive an hour to work and an hour home.

Old Business-None

New Business-

1. Strategic Planning Session :

- Board Members shared no updates until next month.

2. School Improvement Committee-

Mr. Nichols shared the following:

- There was a new goal added to the school improvement plan which is to improve their CSI goals.
- They met with Mr. Tom Inglis from MDE, Carroll Paul from Wayne RESA and the SIP committee to structure it all.
- It is ready to submit by the deadline June 30th.
- They feel that growth and proficiency will help the students and the data soon will mirror that.
- Supt. Pettway explained the new system that was put into place required a lot of work. They state awarded the school with the TAG (Technical Assistance Grant) grant which was money put in for staff for the planning of the SIP plan. They will receive a stipend.
- Board President Murry asked if they have put into place anything to replace micro schools.
- Supt Pettway shared that they have been able to maintain the credit attainment since April which is when Micro schools went away. They are now trying to identify and fill in the gaps necessary.

3. Board Member Application/ Reappointment Form

- Board Member Sheila Flannagan submitted her application. Mr. Green Garnett confirmed.

X. Board Committee Reports/ Comments/Action

Finance Committee:

*Financials: Sherry Lynem introduced the **May 2023** financials to the board.*

- State Aid Payment Received of the amount \$ 186,804.61.
- Monies owed to WAY Program as of April 30th, 2023, was for \$ 139,752.50.
- Monies Transferred \$139,752.50
- Accounts Payable of March 31st. 2023 \$ 31,316.60
- The payroll liabilities were for \$ 75,075.19.
- Request for transfer in the amount of \$106,391.79

Spring Budget Amendment 22-23

Sherry Lynem shared the following:

- She was able to go through the last budget amendment presented to the board. She found a lot of changes and discrepancies.
- Total Fund Balance, July 1, 2022, Available to appropriate: \$349,870.00. This was the number found in last year's budget.
- Projected June 30th, 2023, Fund Balance: \$455,751.00
- Anticipated Revenues over Expenditures for 2022-2023: \$105,881.00
- Ms. Lynem feels that she will come across a few surprises as she starts to prepare for the audit.

- She also noticed a lot of federal funds ESSR I, II, III. Those grants are not included in the next years budget because they are going away. She pointed out there will be a decrease in the revenue.

2023-2024 General Fund Proposed Budget

Sherry Lynem shared the following:

- Anticipated Revenues over Expenditures for 2023-2024: \$43,449.00
- Projected June 30th, 2024, Fund Balance: \$499,200.00
- Ms. Lynem stated that the changes Mr. Pettway shared earlier are included in this budget.

Action Items

Approval to Accept May 2023 Financial Statements:

- Motion to Approve: Laura Chavez /2nd Patricia Moesner
- Roll Call Vote: Michael Murry (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Laura Chavez (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y) Sheila Flanagan (Y). Motion carries.

Approval to Accept Spring Budget Amendment:

- Motion to Approve: Approve: Laura Chavez /2nd Patricia Moesner
- Roll Call Vote: Michael Murry (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Laura Chavez (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y) Sheila Flanagan (Y). Motion carries.

Approval to Accept 2023-24 Proposed Budget:

- Motion to Approve: Approve: Laura Chavez /2nd Patricia Moesner
- Roll Call Vote: Michael Murry (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Laura Chavez (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y) Sheila Flanagan (Y). Motion carries.

Approval to Accept State Aid Note Borrowing:

- Motion to Approve: Approve: Laura Chavez /2nd Patricia Moesner
- Roll Call Vote: Michael Murry (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Laura Chavez (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y) Sheila Flanagan (Y). Motion carries.

Announcements- None

Call to the Public-No public present/no public comments.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: Laura Chavez /2nd by Danielle Bascomb
- Roll Call Vote: Michael Murry (Y) Patricia Moesner (Y) Danielle Bascomb (Y) Sheila Flanagan (Y). Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm

Minutes submitted by: Alexandra Guzman

Minutes Certification:

Approved minutes of June 20th, 2023 Annual Reorganizational Board

Meeting respectfully submitted,

Sheila Flanagan

Board Secretary

08 / 16 / 2023

Date

Signature Certificate

Reference number: SMKGT-BHUHH-LHOQT-WMWD4

Signer

Timestamp

Signature

Sheila Flanagan

Email: sheilamflanagan@yahoo.com

Sent:

16 Aug 2023 11:42:54 UTC

Viewed:

16 Aug 2023 15:04:05 UTC

Signed:

16 Aug 2023 15:04:20 UTC

Sheila Flanagan

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