

SPECIAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES – June 9, 2021

The Benedict Education Center Governing Board Room was closed to the public to protect against the spread of COVID-19. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube.

A. Meeting Opening

Call to Order

Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Brian Garcia (President), Andres Barraza (Vice President), Berdetta Hodge, Sarah James, and Armando Montero. Absent: None.

Adoption of the Agenda

On motion of Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Montero and passed 5-0 (Mr. Barraza: aye; Mr. Garcia: aye; Ms. Hodge: aye; Mrs. James: aye; Mr. Montero: aye), the Governing Board approved the meeting agenda.

B. Study Session

Study Session was held from 5:01 to 7:30 PM.

B-1—Social / Emotional Wellness Ad Hoc Committee

Committee chair Armando Montero and Committee members Brian Guliford, Ron Denne, Sean McDonald, Andrea McDonald, Jennifer Leon, Morgan Phillips, Wendi Howe, Sadie Goldman, Erika Braun, and Amanda Steele presented *Ad Hoc Committee on Social/Emotional Wellness, Report to the Governing Board*. Some Governing Board questions/comments:

- Ms. Hodge said that in proposed policy JLB she would like a reference to all minorities added to the *Staff Professional Development* section so every student feels their voice is being heard.
- Mrs. James said it will be important to hold conversations on how to implement community outreach and increase family involvement; she asked how the policy will be distributed to staff and how staff will be trained. *Dr. Mendivil said the approved policy will first be shared with all staff and then followed by targeted professional development.*
- Mr. Barraza asked that a data gathering requirement be written into the proposed regulation so we know how many we're reaching from year to year; said he wants a special Study Session or presentation on how the policy is being implemented, the cost of the program, and how it is being funded.
- Mr. Garcia asked that language covering medical conditions and types of disabilities be expanded.

Board members thanked the committee for their work and the presentation. Mr. Montero thanked all the committee members for their commitment and hard work. He thanked Mrs. Reppe for her assistance in preparing the documents.

B-2—Student Engagement

Stacia Wilson and Megan Sterling presented *Student Engagement Initiative*. Some Governing Board questions/comments:

- Mrs. James said she hopes the district can allocate a portion of the stipend as a thank you to staff sooner than June 2022; said to be cautious with choice of words when talking about attendance incentives.
- Mr. Montero said he is happy to see a positive shift on attendance; agreed with Mrs. James on the stipends; asked how we'll engage students and keep them engaged once they are at school.
- Ms. Hodge said we should find a way to not focus on perfect attendance as that isn't a goal every student can reach.
- Mr. Barraza said the stipend shouldn't be tied to ADM, it would boost morale now if we provide half the stipend now and half later; said it's a bad idea to attach ADMs goal to a stipend.
- Mr. Garcia asked if there is a relationship between truancy, state law and chronic absences and students feeling disincentivized from continuing in school since they are "already on that path." *Dr. Wilson said the conversation between staff and the student should be one of mutual respect where staff seek to understand the situation.*

Dr. Mendivil said administration will look at doing two distribution stipends in the 2021-2022 school year. Board members thanked Dr. Wilson and Ms. Sterling for their presentation.

Mr. Garcia recessed the meeting for ten minutes.

C. Reconvene

Welcome—Mr. Garcia welcomed everyone at 7:40 PM.

D. Board Policies

D-1—Policy JL – Local Wellness Policy (First Reading)

There were no questions or comments. Policy JL, Local Wellness Policy, will return for a Second Reading on June 16, 2021.

D-2—Policy JLB—Student Mental Health and Social/Emotional Wellness (First Reading)

Ms. Hodge asked that a reference to all minorities be added to the Staff Professional Development section. Mr. Barraza said only the President or the Governor can authorize flags to be flown at half-staff. That reference in the policy should be removed. Mrs. James said we don't know what groups in addition to those listed in the Staff Professional Development section might be affected by something and broader language to address those groups might be appropriate. Mr. Barraza said adding historical perspective to the Staff Professional Development section would reflect Mrs. James' suggestion. Mr. Garcia agreed with all the recommendations made by the Board members. Policy JLB, Student Mental Health and Social/Emotional Wellness, will return for a Second Reading on June 16, 2021.

E. Meeting Closing

Next Meeting – June 16, 2021

Adjournment – On motion of Mr. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Hodge and passed 5-0 (Mr. Barraza: aye; Mr. Garcia: aye; Ms. Hodge: aye; Mrs. James: aye; Mr. Montero: aye) the meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Brian Garcia, President

Andres Barraza, Vice President

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