



MEETING OF THE BOARD  
Bridges Preparatory Academy  
Thursday, March 25, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors for Bridges Preparatory Academy, a California nonprofit corporation was held on Thursday, March 25, 2021 via a public Zoom conference from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Present: Trena Spurlock, Bryan Lee, and Mary Louise Silva  
Absent: David Owen, Miguel Angel Romero  
Others Present: Alejandro Gomez

**CALL TO ORDER**

Trena Spurlock called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Ms. Spurlock acknowledged all staff and board members present. Ms. Spurlock shared that, like in the previous board meeting, Executive Director Alejandro Gomez would be sharing updates regarding all the items reflected on the agenda.

Each board member praised Mr. Gomez for his commitment and tireless efforts preparing for BPA's inaugural school opening.

**COMMUNICATIONS** (Public Comment)

None.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- February 25, 2021 - *The minutes were approved as presented.*

It was **MOVED** by Bryan Lee to approve the minutes and **SECONDED** by Trena Spurlock to approve the February 25, 2021 minutes.

**Yes vote:** *Bryan Lee, Trena Spurlock and Mary Louise Silva*

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was revised to include an additional item form 990 that was not previously reflected.

It was **MOVED** by Bryan Lee to approve the revised agenda and **SECONDED** by Mary Louise Silva.

**Yes vote:** *Bryan Lee, Trena Spurlock and Mary Louise Silva*

### **FACILITY UPDATE**

Mr. Gomez shared that he is currently utilizing office space in the facility for Bridges Preparatory Academy. He also shared that banners to promote the school's fall opening are already posted outside of the facility and that he purchased necessary office furniture such as desks and chairs.

Mr. Gomez announced that he is in the process of setting up safety protocols (temperature screening, social distancing, sanitation) so that in the next 3 weeks enrolled and/or prospective students/families can safely enter the building. Starting April 19, 2021, access to the building will be made by appointment only - serving 1 parent/student team every 30 minutes.

Mr. Gomez also shared that a group of parent volunteers have been actively volunteering to organize and clean the facility in preparation for the fall opening.

### **PCSGP Grant Update**

Mr. Gomez announced that the Public Charter School Grant (PCSG) grant to help support new charter schools with planning and implementation was submitted and is optimistic that BPA will be awarded up to \$600,000 this funding cycle.

### **RECRUITMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Gomez shared that the number of enrolled students at BPA for the fall school year has not increased since last month. Mr. Gomez stressed that he is less than pleased with Schola (BPA's online recruitment service) efforts converting leads into actual enrolled students. To address this issue, Mr. Gomez plans to:

- Check in regularly with Schola to ensure they are following through with contracted recruitment services;
- Resume door-to-door canvassing in the community to recruit students when LA County moves to the less restrictive orange tier; and
- Conduct outreach activities at various Compton supermarkets.

### **SELPA UPDATE**

Mr. Gomez shared that the application was submitted and by May it is expected that BPA should be an official member of LAC's Charter SELPA which will provide necessary governance and oversight in support of the school's special education services.

### **CHARTER SCHOOL NUMBER UPDATE**

Mr. Gomez shared that BPA's charter school number will be approved at the next State board meeting. Once this number is approved, Mr. Gomez will apply for the County-District-School (CDS) code, which is a 14-digit identification number required for

all schools within California. The **CDS** office cannot assign a **CDS code** until after the State Board of Education has assigned a **charter number**.

He also shared the CDS number is needed to apply for the Free and Reduced Price Meal program and to submit the school's Local Control Accountability Plan, (LCAP).

### **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

Mr. Gomez announced that he has reached out to other small charter operators for advice and is exploring cost-effective health benefits and insurance providers options such as Charter-safe and other brokers. Mr. Gomez also shared that he has not sent offer letters because he wants to include the type of benefits teachers/staff are going to receive.

### **NEWSCHOOLS VENTURE FUND**

Mr. Gomez announced that the application for NewSchool Venture Fund to support BPA's opening this fall will be submitted on Monday, March 31, 2021. If the school is being considered for this grant program (ranging from \$200,000 to \$600,000) a group of school leaders, staff and board members may be asked to participate in an interview.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD BOXES**

Mr. Bryan Lee will join Mr. Gomez on Friday, March 26, 2021 to pick up and distribute 150 food boxes from Los Angeles County and LA in Maywood. The food will be distributed at the school along with recruitment flyers tomorrow from 11:00 am to 2:00 PM. It is likely that Los Angeles County will continue to give BPA food boxes to distribute to families in Compton.

### **APPROVAL TO REQUEST PROCOPIO TO FILE FORMS 1023 AND 990**

Mr. Gomez shared that he might need to enlist the help of Procopio to review and revise the legal language along with making necessary changes requested by LACOE to the final MOU petition. He also needs their services to file Form 1023 to secure BPA's non-profit tax exemption status in conjunction with the filing of Form 990 which is required of all non-profits to maintain tax-exempt status. The need to file the Form 990 was not previously reflected on the agenda.

It was motioned by Ms. Spurlock to amend this action item to include requesting approval of Procopio to make necessary edits to the final MOU petition, along with their services to file Form 1023 and Form 990. The motion was seconded by Bryan Lee.

It was **MOVED** to approve securing Procopio services by Bryan Lee; **SECONDED** by Trena Spurlock.

**Yes vote:** *Bryan Lee, Trena Spurlock and Mary Louise Silva*

### **PERSONAL LOAN**

In the absence of revenue from potential funding sources, Mr. Gomez shared that as the school's Executive Director, he plans to make a personal loan to Bridges, not to exceed \$5,000 for BPA to cover Procopio's fees for the aforementioned needed legal services.

It was **MOVED** to approve the personal loan by Bryan Lee; **SECONDED** by Trena Spurlock.

**Yes vote:** *Bryan Lee, Trena Spurlock and Mary Louise Silva*

### **BOARD MEETING CALENDAR**

Mr. Gomez asked the board to meet every second Thursday of the month instead of every fourth Thursday at 7:30 PM and announced that future board meetings will take place on the following dates:

- Thursday, April 8, 2021
- Thursday, May 13, 2021
- Thursday, June 10, 2021
- Thursday, June 24, 2021
- Thursday, July 8, 2021

It was **MOVED** by Bryan Lee to approve the revised board meeting calendar and **SECONDED** by Mary Louise Silva.

**Yes vote:** *Bryan Lee, Trena Spurlock and Mary Louise Silva*

### **ADJOURNMENT.**

It was moved to end the meeting at 8:35 PM by Mary Louise Silva; **SECONDED** by Trena Spurlock. All in favor. None opposed