



MEETING OF THE BOARD
Bridges Preparatory Academy
Thursday, April 8, 2021

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Trena Spurlock called the meeting to order at 7:30 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,

Mr. Gomez shared that Brian Juarez would be providing a brief presentation regarding Helios, a human resources outsourcing and recruitment services company.

COMMUNICATIONS (Public Comment)

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was revised to include an additional item, a closed session regarding existing litigation Compton Vs. LACOE that was not previously reflected.

It was **MOVED** by David Owen to approve the revised agenda and **SECONDED** by Miguel Angel Romero.

Yes vote: *David Owen, Trena Spurlock, Miguel Angel Romero, and Mary Louise Silva*

HELIOS ED/HR PROVIDER

Brian Juarez briefly introduced the services provided by Helios, a cost-effective human resources outsourcing company that has successfully helped school districts move to a paperless applicant tracking and human resources systems focusing on faculty/staff

recruitment/hiring and onboarding. Mr. Juarez also stressed that their online platform is user friendly and saves districts time and money. He also shared that the HR experts at Helios ensure the schools they serve attract highly qualified and credentialed teachers and substitute teachers when needed.

Mr Gomez thanked Brian from his presentation and shared that BPA does not need their services at this time, but in the future as the school grows they will be considered to meet the school's HR needs.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

It was **MOVED** by David Owen to approve the minutes and **SECONDED** by Trena Spurlock to approve the March 25, 2021 minutes.

Yes vote: *David Owen, Trena Spurlock, and Miguel Angel Romero, and Mary Louise Silva*

NUTRITION SERVICE CONSULTANT

Mr. Gomez shared that he plans to utilize a nutrition consultant to complete BPA's application to ensure the school is approved to participate in the federal meal program so that all eligible students at BPA receive free or reduced-priced meals. 96% of BPA students will qualify for the meal program. The consultant, Courtney Lockridge will charge a \$ 2,500 one-time fee to successfully complete the application. ExEd, BPA's business solutions provider will oversee the monthly administration of this program.

CHARTERSAFE HEALTH BENEFIT QUOTES

Mr. Gomez shared that he is exploring different insurance providers to cover faculty/ staff health, dental, vision and life insurance needs. The school is budgeted to contribute \$600 per employee to cover these benefits. Chartersafe, a commonly used insurance provider used by charter schools throughout California has submitted a bid. Mr. Gomez plans to collect bids from at least 2 other providers. Once all the bids have been submitted and carefully, reviewed the most cost effective insurance provider will be selected. Mr. Gomez has pledged to keep the board abreast of his progress.

It was motioned by Trena Spurlock and seconded by Miguel Angel Romero to end the existing meeting and move the group into closed session.

CLOSED SESSION: EXISTING LITIGATION COMPTON VS. LACOE

Mr. Gomez shared that he received a copy of the summons in which the Compton Unified School District is suing the Los Angeles Office of Education, LACOE (BPA's charter authorizer) for approving the school's charter petition a few months ago. The rationale behind this lawsuit is to force BPA to go up for approval again and to possibly delay the school's opening this fall. The California Charter School Association, CCSA's

legal team including the law firm Procopio will work together to address this litigation. It is likely that there are no legal grounds for this action since it's up to the LACOE board to decide which charter petitions are approved under their jurisdiction. CCSA has agreed to cover 75% of the legal fees and will lend BPA money to pay the remaining 25% of the fees.

It was motioned by Trena Spurlock and seconded by Mary Louis Silva to end the closed session.

Trena Spurlock announced to the general public that during the closed session the existing litigation Compton Vs. LACOE was discussed by the board.

Trena Spurlock ended the meeting by expressing her gratitude for Mr. Gomez exceptional leadership, dedication, and professionalism.

ADJOURNMENT.

It was moved to end the meeting at 8:28 PM by Mary Louise Silva; SECONDED by Trena Spurlock. All in favor. None opposed