



## The Schools of McKeel Academy

*McKeel Academy of Technology  
McKeel Elementary Academy (dba McKeel Academy Central)  
South McKeel Academy*

### Board of Trustees Meeting

#### MINUTES

**March 18, 2014**

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The meeting of the Board of Trustees was held Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at The Schools of McKeel Academy Business Office. The meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor Caffey at 12:02 p.m. Trustees present included Taylor Caffey, Stephanie L. Campbell, Larry Ross, John Stargel, Mark Thompson, and Phillip Walker. Trustee Cathy Wooley-Brown attended via conference call. Staff present included Alan Black, Julie Ramirez, Judi Morris, Michele Spurgeon, Linda Acocelli, Susan Black, Ron Black and Olivia Hazell. Teachers of the Year in attendance included Wendy Georgevich, Brittani O'Connor, Rebecca Stacey, and Samantha Wilbur.

➤ **Public Comment**

There was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

➤ **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Chair, Taylor Caffey, entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

*Upon a motion made by Mark Thompson, seconded by Phillip Walker, the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented carried unanimously.*

➤ **Old Business**

**Search Committee**

Dr. Ross explained that committee members were in the process of reviewing and ranking the first wave of applications that have been received. If there are qualified applicants in the first wave of applications the committee will proceed to the next phase of the process, which is the Skype interview. There is no closing date for the job posting because it is the intention of the committee to keep the position open until the right candidate is found. Dr. Ross explained that anyone who is interested in applying needs to submit their application now.

In the event that Alan Black is not chosen as the new Director of Schools, the committee would like to offer employment contracts not to exceed 2 years to the following key personnel: Alan Black, Interim Superintendent; Julie Ramirez-Finance Director; and the 3 principals. The committee agreed to contact Mike Malfatano to assist with this process.

*Upon a privileged motion made by Mark Thompson, the motion to allow the Search Committee to contract with attorney, Mik eMalfatano in order to gather information concerning employment contracts for Alan Black, Interim Superintendent; Julie Ramirez-Finance Director; and the 3 principals carried unanimously.*

The Search Committee will meet again on Monday, March 31, 2014, at 8:00 am at TSMA Business Office.

**Finance Committee**

Mr. Thompson reported that the committee met on 3/13/14, and then again this morning to discuss the change orders for the MAC expansion project. The Board approved change orders totaling \$111, 571 at the 12/10/13, Board of Trustees meeting. Additional change orders have been submitted for an additional \$9,277.

Ms. Ramirez presented the budget amendment and answered questions concerning the amendment.

Ms. Ramirez requested approval for purchases made for MAC that exceeded the \$35k threshold-an invoice from Dell for televisions to replace Smart boards; and an invoice from Apple for the purchase of additional iPads.

*Upon a privileged motion made by Mark Thompson, the motion to approve the change orders for the MAC expansion project, budget amendments, and purchases of Dell and Apple equipment for MAC, carried unanimously.*

➤ **New Business**

**Scholarship Selection Committee**

Susan Black explained that she needs 3 Board members to serve on the selection committee. Stephanie Campbell, John Stargel, and Phillip Walker volunteered. The process has already started and applications are coming in. Mrs. Black will arrange a date in April for candidate interviews. This year, two scholarships will be awarded.

➤ **Other**

**Oak Street Property**

Alan Black explained that he has negotiated with the City of Lakeland to open a Pre-K program at MAC and in return the City will donate the Oak Street property for the MAC PE area. John Rodda has agreed to donate his services for remodeling the Business Office in order to use it as a Pre-K building. The purpose of opening the Pre-K program is to increase diversity in the student population at TSMA.

John Stargel, proposed the following-TSMA will agree to open a Pre-K program for MAC as long as the following conditions are met: 1) John Rodda submits in writing that he will remodel the Business Office into a building to be used for the Pre-K; 2) The City of Lakeland donates the land for the PE area for MAC; 3) opening a MAC Pre-K program meets our current financial model; and 4) the new Pre-K benefits the socio economic zone in the current neighborhood. Mr. Black will contact attorney Daniel Woodring to assist with writing the language for the contract. The program will be presented to the Board at a later date for final approval.

*Upon a motion made by John Stargel , seconded by Stephanie L. Campbell, the motion to approve the land donation and opening of a Pre-K program as long as the conditions are met, carries unanimously.*

Board members were asked to attend the next Lakeland CRA meeting with Mr. Black on Thursday, April 3, 2014, at City Hall to discuss the Oak Street property. Trustees Taylor Caffey, Mark Taylor and Stephanie L. Campbell will attend the meeting.

**Staff Diversity**

In order to increase diversity among staff at TSMA, Mr. Black will be sending the Principals from MAT and SMA to teacher recruiting events on 4/10/14, at Bethune Cookman University; and 5/8/14 the statewide teacher recruiting fair.

**Board of Trustee Meetings and Annual Meeting**

Mr. Black proposed moving the April 15 meeting to the morning in order to tour the new MAC building. Mr. Caffey proposed moving the May 20 meeting to May 13 because Mr. Black will be on a school field trip. Mrs. Hazell will send out an e-mail in order to determine everyone's availability for the proposed meeting dates.

Mr. Caffey discussed setting the date for the Board of Trustees Annual Meeting. He suggested Saturday, July 26, 2014. The location will be determined at a later meeting.

**DOE Bandwidth Grant for SMA**

Mrs. Morris explained that SMA was awarded a Bandwidth Grant for \$13,567 to be used for upgrading the bandwidth at SMA.

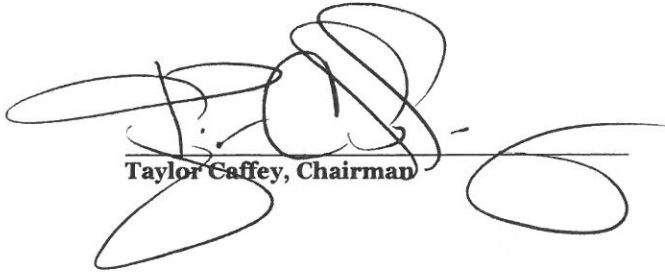
*Upon a motion made by John Stargel, seconded by Stephanie L. Campbell, the motion to approve SMA receiving the DOE Bandwidth Grant was approved.*

**School Reports**

Principals presented their school reports which will become a permanent part of the record of this meeting.

➤ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



Taylor Caffey, Chairman

ATTEST:



Olivia Hazell, Secretary