

MICANOPY ACADEMY
BOARD MEETING
JULY 9, 2024 at 5:30PM



Call to Order at 5:30pm

Board Members Present: Bishop Chris Stokes, Frank Williams, Tara Lowe-Phillips, Ed Rick, Nancy Brown. Quorum established. Principal Kristin Walker, Ap Elizabeth Ricks, and SBAC ESE Director Kathy Black were also present.

5:40pm: Motion to accept the updated Policies and Procedures Part 1, with a Motion to finish Part 2 at a later date.

F. Williams 1st, N. Brown - 2nd.

E.Rick : Amend to a Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Stokes: New rules for speaking and zoom participation. Board training. Public input is limited to 3 minutes. - at 1 appointed time. Post outside info.

Public input:

Ann Smith(teacher): Do look at having public comment at the end, instead of at the start of meetings.

Kelly Rick (parent): Public comment at the end.

Stokes: Commit to Agenda being available sooner.

Rick: New Policy says that the Agenda should be posted days prior to meeting.

Stokes: For today, we will allow public comment prior to the vote for Ms. Walker's contract to be renewed.

Com?: Have Public comment before and after.

Williams: Agenda and 7 day notice should take place.

Lowe-Phillips: Financial Statements: Ms.Walker needs to make a hard copy for the Board to sign.

Stokes: We will come back to the Financial Statements when we get copies.

Walker: Principal Report: 134 students - which is almost to capacity. Field Trip was a success. Yousef Weis will be the 24-25 Athletic Director.

Stokes: Mrs. Ricks, would you give us a report on the Peru trip?

Elizabeth Ricks (AP): Great trip. Overview given. 1 current MA student went to Peru, plus 1 upcoming student.

Clay Smith (teacher): Great trip. Overview given.

Stokes: Thanks for supporting the school trip.

Employee list, copy of Monitoring Tool from Kathy Black. Walker will provide.

Employee list - will present at the August meeting.

Lowe-Phillips - doesn't agree with the current Parapro due to past actions.

Stokes: Motion to set a Timeline for sign by Thursday at 5:30, to reconvene.

Motion to finalize Staff Contracts on 7/11/24
Williams - 1st, Lowe - 2nd. Vote 5-0.

Action Items: 2024-25 Principal Contract 1 year - Does not automatically renew.

Public Input:

A.Smith - Doesn't know what the contract says.

Walker: It removed the ESE and the co-Teach 7th grade class.

JE?: Would a replacement be an ESE consultant and still teach?

KR: Let's hit the Reset button for someone new to roll a lot of encouragement to keep making strides.

Stokes: Agrees with comments. Loyalties lie where they lie.

Closed Public Comment Time.

Williams: Reads from Policies and Procedures. Not perfect, but past 4 months have been very difficult.

Lowe: 4 months have been difficult. Spent many sleepless nights stressing over the situation. Ultimately has to do what is best for the good of the school.

Brown: Put in positions that were not handled well. Looks as a whole.

E.Rick: Needs a vote of confidence for a reset to move forward.

Stokes: Some things we can't reset like the FLDOE investigation and SBAC findings. We need to hire an attorney. I congratulated Principal Walker when she became the Principal and have been a cheerleader since. I can say that I felt disappointed . I am not an intimidating person. None of that factors in now. Whatever decision, I stand 100% with this Academy. Things said in the heat of battle and success and failures are all our part. Four months making this a Board issue. I thank the Board for your commitment.

E. Rick: Makes a Motion to Renew Walker's Contract
1st E. Rick. No 2nd. Motion fails.

Williams: Makes a Motion to begin the search for a new Principal.
1st - Williams 2nd - Brown. Motion Passed 4-1.

Stokes: Asked Mrs. Elizabeth Ricks to be the Interim Principal and/or stay on as Asst. Principal?

E. Ricks: Will let you know on Thursday.

Walker leaves the room.

Other public members leave the room.

Board Report

Stokes: MA needs an attorney.

Kathy Black - SBAC ESE Director

Report on the Monitoring Tools:

Out of Field Teachers were not reported to the Board
Could face return of funds - up to \$480,000
Lack of test security for the FAST.
Lack of Documentation for the FAST.
Didn't have any accommodations on the paperwork for ESE students on the FAST
This could invalidate all tests?
ESE falls to the District???
Termination of Employee without cause.
HR Assessment - failed to provide information.

Williams: Agrees that an attorney is needed for the school.

Stokes: Ms. Christine Mentis gave contact information for a good Charter school attorney in Jacksonville.

J/E???: Ms. Walker was trained by Tara Lowe-Phillips .

Lowe: She was not trained by me to do any of those things.

Stokes: Makes a **Motion to appoint a Committee to look for a Principal.**
1st - E. Rick. 2nd - Williams.
Passes 5-0.

Rick: There must be 1 agenda item for a special meeting.

Stokes: I would like one parent on the Committee.

Kelly Rick (parent): Not under contract as of 6/30/24.

Sets a date for Special Meeting for Thursday, Jul 11, 2024 at 5:30pm.

K. Rick (parent): Needs a timeline to create contracts for Thursday.

Stokes: Will need to go through files to create contracts.

Brown: Clarification of Cause regarding Mr. Kline - No evidence found against the teacher.

Adjourned 6:48pm

Special Meeting: To Review Staff Contracts - July 11 at 5:30pm

Next Regular Meeting: July 29 at 5:30pm

