

# MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SCHOOLS IN ACTION

## REGULAR MEETING

2.23.23

5:00pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 83680123147

Passcode: 584183

### Members present:

Ronae Harrison, President

Rachel Gibbs, Secretary

Raul Alarcon, Member

Catherine Belcher, Member

Lizette Villaruel, Member

*All members and the public are able to call in remotely via zoom. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures under AB 361, there is no physical meeting location. If you would like access to the materials presented during the Board Meeting, you can request that the link of board documents be emailed to you at the start of the board meeting. The zoom link for the meeting is listed above.*

**Called to order at 5:01PM**

## OPEN SESSION

- 1) **Public Comment.**
  - a) none
- 2) **Announcements from Board Members or Board Committees.**
  - a) none
- 3) **Consideration of Minutes from Past Meetings.** The minutes from the 2.09.23 Board Meeting were reviewed and considered for adoption by the school board.
  - a) Ronae Harrison made a motion to accept the minutes, Raul seconded the motion.
  - b) 5 ayes, 0 nays
- 4) **Consideration of the Vice President Board Position.** The school board considered the election of Raúl Alarcón to the position of Vice President of the school board.
  - a) Kalin added that Raul has visited the schools often, has consulted with us, and it has been a pleasure to have him on the board and she is glad that he is open to this position.
  - b) Ronae made a motion to elect Raul Alarcon as Vice President, Rachel Gibbs seconded the motion.
  - c) 5 ayes, 0 nays
- 5) **Consideration of the Second Interim Reports and January Financials:** Charter Impact and the Executive Director presented the Second Interim Reports and January Financials for Arts in Action Community Charter School and Arts in Action Community Middle School for review and consideration by the school board.
  - a) No questions
  - b) Ronae made a motion to accept the interim report, Rachel Gibbs seconded the motion.
  - c) 5 ayes, 0 nays

- 6) Consideration of the Employee Retention Credit.** The Executive Director presented a proposal to move forward with working with CFOMW Tax LLC. on applying for the Employee Retention Credit for review and consideration by the school board.
- a) Discussion on Employee Retention Credit Bids/Comparison of vendors. Kalin recommended that we go with CFOMW Tax, LLC.
  - b) Michael Williams was available to answer questions.
    - i) Ronae asked regarding any of the challenges he's seen with working with charter schools. Michael responded that there are usually not tax credits associated with charter schools so there is a lot of due diligence regarding qualifications about eligibility. However, they have worked with other schools and ensured that due diligence is done on the front end. 18/76 claims have been funded, and 0 have been denied.
    - ii) Raul asked about the charter schools that were not viable for this.
      - (1) First, some schools had a different business model that did not make them viable.
      - (2) Second was geography, schools in California had some of these more restrictive rules and regulations.
    - iii) Raul asked what the original intent was to the employee retention turnover credit.
      - (1) It was an additional program tied to the CARES Act—the federal government wanted to incentive employees to their payroll.
    - iv) Raul asked if there are any cons to pursuing the credit.
      - (1) The worst case is that the IRS approves the claim and there is an audit period. CFOMW only files claims that are strong. CFOMW work advocate on our behalf. In the case that the decision is overturned, CFOMW would return the fee.
    - v) Raul asked how much time do we have to use the funds if we were to receive them.
      - (1) The funds are unrestricted and uncategorized, so schools have used them in different ways like a rainy day fund, modifying staff wages, capital expenditures, etc.
    - vi) Catherine asked if they have had any experience regarding this funding and fiscal reporting/auditing to LAUSD.
      - (1) Kalin responded that we have had a similar experience with the PPE loan. We were one of the few schools that applied and received it. LAUSD asked for an overview of the rationale for applying for the funds, they had no push back on the explanation. We also provided it during oversight, and did not impact our fiscal scores.
    - vii) Ronae made a motion to approve the proposal, Raul seconded.
  - c) 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**7) Adjournment: 5:32pm.**

Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations shall be made 24 hours prior to the meeting to the schools' main offices or by calling (323) 266-4371. Individuals wishing to speak at a Board meeting must sign up at the meeting. There will be no sign ups in advance of the meeting. Speakers must sign up prior to the item being acted upon by the Board. Speakers should plan to arrive early as items with no speakers may be acted on at the beginning of the meeting. Materials related to an item on this Board agenda can be requested and made available for public inspection at the main office of Schools in Action, which is also the main office of Arts in Action Community Charter Schools.