

MEETING HELD AT:

Berkeley Preparatory Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

	PRESENT	NOT PRESENT	TERM EXPIRATION DATE
Dr. Stewart Weinberg President	x		May 2024
Cheryl Hollis Vice-President	x		May 2025
Brian Williams Treasurer	x		May 2025
Brandi VanGordor Secretary	x		May 2024
Alicia Patton Director	x		May 2025
Simplicia Smith Director	x		May 2025
Dr. Tamara Jackson Director	Zoom		May 2024

NON-BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:

1. Kenneth Coles, Principal – Mevers School of Excellence
2. Jessica Bellflower, Principal - Berkeley Preparatory
3. Lisanne Morton, State Finance Director – CSUSA
4. Susan Gibson, Interim State Director – CSUSA
5. Carol Aust, Director of External Relations and Board Governance – CSUSA
6. Stephanie Lowerre, Sr. Financial Analyst – CSUSA
7. Fabien McGill, Principal – Willie Jefferies School of Excellence
8. Ken Martin, CPA Martin Smith

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

- CALL TO ORDER
Pursuant to public notice, Board President, Dr. Stewart Weinberg called the meeting to order at 6:44 P.M.
- ROLL CALL
Roll call was held, and quorum was established.
- Pledge to the flag.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

APPROVAL

MOTION: Motion was made by Brandi and seconded by Brian to go into executive session to discuss contractual matters at 5:00 P.M.

MOTION: Motion was made by Brian and seconded by Tamara to come out of executive session at 6:38 P.M. Motion passed unanimously.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE

- APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- **MOTION:** Motion was made by Brandi and seconded by Brian to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

- APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

- **MOTION:** Motion was made by Brian and seconded by Alicia to approve meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Berkeley Preparatory Academy school presentation. Lauren Kinard, computer science teacher in partnership with students presented coding projects ranging from games and applications. Students Bo S. 6th, Aydin Z. 7th, Steven S. 6th, Xavier 6th Daniel H. 8th and Corey W. 8th presented their individual projects.

V. AUDIT PRESENTATION

Ken Martin from Martin Smith and Co presented the audit for BPA and MSE. There were no findings, and each school received a clean opinion report. Ken advised they received excellent support from CSUSA for the audits. He advised Martin Smith is still working on the 990's for each school and a consolidated report.

- **MOTION:** Motion was made by Brian and seconded by Cheryl to accept the presented audits for Mevers School of Excellence and Berkeley Preparatory Academy. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. REPORTS

- Susan Gibson, Interim State Director Report

Discussed teacher salary comparison for Dorchester, Berkeley, and Charleston County school districts compared to teacher salaries at both schools. The data is to be considered for next year's budget. Stewart requested Susan review the amount paid to CSUSA to increase teacher salaries.

Advised both schools are on track to complete their annual reports due at the end of December to Erskine.

Mrs. Gibson provided grant updates for both MSE & BPA.

- Mevers School of Excellence Principal Report
Mr. Coles gave an update on the strategic goals and social media outreach. He advised 862 students are enrolled. 18 new students were offered a spot. Provided an update on SPED and they are now compliant and open enrollment is up and running again. Students raised nearly \$20,000 for musical instruments. Hosted an anti-bullying assembly at the school. Susan gave an update on the LED lighting project the new cost will be \$18,000. Cheryl suggested changing Mevers to expand to offer a K4 class. Susan will research the possibility of offering K4 at Mevers.
- Berkeley Preparatory Academy Principal Report
Mrs. Bellflower gave an update on BPA strategic goals and social media outreach. She presented the SCDE Platinum award from SCDE in addition to other school recognitions. BPA is the top second school in the Erskine district. Advised 782 students are enrolled and 202 on the waiting list.
- Willie Jefferies School of Excellence Principal Report
Dr. McGill gave an update on WJSE strategic goals including enrollment outreach goal is to increase enrollment by 25% each month. Provided an update enrollment outreach plan. Will start to advertise teacher vacancies. 43 applications have been received. Requested approval for PowerSchool assistance by Canty Tech to start in December. Advised P&I grant funds can be used to pay for the service.

MOTION: Motion was made by Cheryl and seconded by Brian to approve the Canty Tech contract for PowerSchool assistance. Motion passed unanimously.

- CSUSA Financials
The Board was updated on financials for both schools.

MOTION: Motion was made by Brian and seconded by Alicia to approve the Mevers financials for October 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Motion was made by Brian and seconded by Alicia to approve the amended MSE budget FY2023 version 2. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Motion was made by Brian and seconded by Cheryl to approve the amended budget FY2023 vers. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Motion was made by Brian and seconded by Alicia to approve the BPA financials for October 2023. Motion passed unanimously

VII. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Resolution to approve Berkeley Charter Education Association, Inc. submitting an application for USDA Rural Community Facilities Program

MOTION: Motion was made by Brian and seconded by Brandi to approve resolution to allow Berkeley Charter Education Association, Inc. to submit an application for USDA Rural Community Facilities Program. Motion passed unanimously.

Stewart advised that the board would call a special called board meeting on December 5th, 2023, at 6pm in Orangeburg. He advised no CSUSA staff need to attend but requested Carol Aust set up the Zoom meeting.

MOTION: Motion was made by Brian and seconded by Brandi to authorize the president to work with attorneys to develop response to the Red Apple offer for the purchase of MSR and BPA. Motion passed unanimously.

- Authorize, Cheryl Hollis and board chair in collaboration with principal Dr. Fabian McGill to engage in activities associated with selection of IT services for the Willie Jefferies School of Excellence.

MOTION: Motion was made by Brian and seconded by Alicia to authorize Cheryl Hollis with principal Dr. Fabian McGill to engage in activities associated with selection of IT services for the Willie Jefferies School of Excellence. Motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion and approval of E-Rate consultant
- **MOTION:** Motion was made by Cheryl and seconded by Alicia to approve the Communication Audit Services contract for E-RATE consulting services for Willie Jefferies School of Excellence. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephanie Beck provided an update on the BPA playground.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion was made by Cheryl and seconded by Alicia to adjourn the meeting of the Berkeley Charter Education Association. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Thursday, January 25, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.
Mevers School of Excellence