

# APPROVED MINUTES

## CORAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE LAS VEGAS BOARD OF GOVERNORS FINANCE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

### Meeting Information

Date: October 14, 2020  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: 8965 S. Eastern Ave, Suite 280, Las Vegas, NV 89123 [but held electronically, per the Agenda, pursuant to Directives 006, 016, 018, 026 and 029 of the State of Nevada Executive Department]

### **Posting of Agenda:**

This agenda was posted at the following locations:

Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas (“CASLV”) website at [www.caslv.org](http://www.caslv.org), and Nevada Public Notice website at <http://notice.nv.gov>.

### **Format / Procedures / Rules:**

*[See Agenda for information regarding format, procedure, and rules governing the meeting]*

### Agenda

**Call to order** Ms. Diggins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call** Present: Joined via video and conference call WebEx: Ms. Diggins, and Mr. Gibson. Mr. Zhang was absent.

Non Board Members in attendance, joined via WebEx conference call: Mr. Gardberg, legal counsel, Mr. Ercan, Mr. Nick, Mr. Vu, and Ms. Shepard.

### **Pledge of Allegiances**

#### **A. Public Comment (*Information*)**

*[Please see the Agenda for the procedures and rules regarding Public Comments.]*

There were no public comments.

#### **B. Discussion & Possible Action Items**

##### **1. Amendment of the Charter for Addition of a New Campus (*For Possible Action*)**

Mr. Gibson and Ms. Diggins discussed the challenges regarding this amendment request. Two of these challenges are the Nellis 2-star rating and the proposed location. The big issue for CASLV is the potential that to relocate CASLV Eastgate campus down the road. Ms. Diggins thinks that our path to solve the problem with the other property owner is narrowing with the inability to get a final property owner to sign off on the change to the CCNRs.

Ms. Diggins feels that since the Nellis 2-star rating is not our fault that COVID has happened and that the state testing has been suspended, she thinks the SPCSA might make an exception because so many of our campuses are high performing. She is more concerned about the staff guidelines for the location of the campus. Mr. Ercan affirmed the SPCSA approved needs assessment guidelines states that new school locations should be in the area of underperforming schools so students have

more opportunities for quality seats. Mr. Ercan shared a map and discussed all of the schools in the area and their ratings. There is not a middle or high school within the zip code of 89044, and the closest middle schools are 3-star. The closest high school is Liberty High School which is also 3-star, and overcrowded.

Mr. Ercan explained that CASLV is proposing certain measures to attract more FRL students, including an exciting Pre-K program which would guarantee entry into kindergarten and thus ensure FRL populations are high. Only low income families can be eligible for this Pre-K program. This doesn't include a weighted lottery, but that is an option to consider in the future. Ms. Diggins asked if should we offer that proactively for this campus only.

The subcommittee reviewed the timeline: (i) application due tomorrow; (ii) Board decision in Jan. 2021; (iii) selling bonds in Summer 2021; (iv) construction; (v) opening of campus in Aug. 2022; (vi) opening of certain amenities in Aug. 2023 (e.g., gym).

Mr. Gibson is concerned about the Eastgate lawsuit looming over the school, and particularly the bandwidth of the leadership if we need to move Eastgate on short notice. Mr. Ercan is confident that he could handle both matters (construction and Eastgate relocation) if the latter arose.

Mr. Gibson would like a financial analysis at one of the upcoming board meetings. We will invite school's financial advisor, Mr. John Phan to one of the future board meetings. Mr. Ercan explained we lost the parcel we were looking at, but there is an alternative real estate available. The developer will not confer until we have SPCSA approval. Ms. Diggins asked if we should look at alternative locations, with better demographics. Do we have a plan B? Mr. Ercan said yes. We can move the location a little bit, but not too far away from our Sandy Ridge and Eastgate campuses. Mr. Ercan is always looking and will continue to search for a new location. Mr. Gibson added that the East Henderson area is booming.

Ms. Diggins asked if staff recommends rejection, and withdraw it. Mr. Ercan said we can withdraw the day before, so that's an option. Mr. Gibson added he is not keen on a no vote as it is hard to overcome and he does not want to be in this position.

Ms. Diggins said she understands Mr. Ercan's strategy of waiting about the weighted lottery. She thinks maybe we should be more proactive and present it in a way that it would be specific to this campus and not across all campuses. Mr. Gibson agrees with this.

Ms. Diggins made a motion to approve with a weighted lottery for this campus only, and it comes back to the Board if the staff recommends denial to decide what to do next. Seconded by Mr. Gibson.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

## **2. Assurance Pay for Office Staff (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Diggins indicated this was discussed at the last board meeting regarding a financial incentive for teachers, and that some staff made an emotional appeal about their risk factors being considered. The board decided it would not be reasonable to make a decision without the finance impact being discussed so this has come here to the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee to discuss the financial impact.

Mr. Ercan said they originally targeted teachers and aides only. The board recommended expanding to staff, too. Mr. Ercan presented on financial ramifications.

There are only 5 students that will attend Eastgate, 5 at Windmill, 13 at Centennial [SPED students], and just 25 at Sandy Ridge. Mr. Ercan also reviewed the number of staff at each campus, and proposed daily amounts for staff since this should be fair and based on the number of students at each campus.

Ms. Diggins asked if so few children, why pay assurance payments? Much more limited risk at campuses with so few children. The intent was to get teachers to come onsite for in person teaching especially for student groups where in person is essential like lower grade levels. Mr. Gibson said to rely on science and follow protocols. If we have at risk staff members then we will provide a substitute for them. Mr. Gibson asked if there is Plexiglas at each front desk, and Mr. Ercan confirmed there is at each campus.

Ms. Diggins added we have two campuses where the teachers do not want to come back. We want to be safe but these students need to come back and be taught in person. Ms. Diggins said her position now is that unless there are grade levels coming back on campus and that the student numbers are so low at the other campuses that the payments are not necessary. Mr. Gibson said he supports this.

Ms. Diggins said what is being proposed here for staff with financial incentives for Tamarus and Nellis AFB she is in agreement with, but Eastgate, Centennial Hills, Windmill, and Sandy Ridge numbers are so low that she just does not see the risk with the low numbers. Mr. Ercan indicated they are adding more students at Sandy Ridge. They are adding ELL and 504. From there, they will add low performing students since they do not have lower grade levels. Eastgate and Centennial might be ready for kindergarten and first grades soon. Ms. Diggins added that at that point she is completely supportive of these financial incentives kicking in if we are still continuing.

Mr. Nick said we can amend the assurance payments at the October 30<sup>th</sup> board meeting as well. Mr. Vu added that SPED students often only appear for a brief period of time and that K-1 students stay longer.

Ms. Diggins made a motion to set a threshold of 50 students at Sandy Ridge or two grade levels at other campuses, and retroactive to start date of students on campus. Seconded by Mr. Gibson.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

#### **C. Public Comments** (*Information*)

Please see the procedures and rules referenced in item A above.

No public comments.

#### **D. Adjournment** (*Action*)

Ms. Diggins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gibson.

**ACTION:** Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

