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APPROVED MINUTES

CORAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE LAS VEGAS REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Meeting Information

Date: December 16, 2020
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: 8965 S. Eastern Ave, Suite 280, Las Vegas, NV 89123 [but held electronically, per the Agenda, pursuant to Directive 006 and other Directives 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, 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 4:30 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Joined via video and conference call WebEx: Ms. Diggins, Ms. Kazelskis, Ms. Hayman (Ms Hayman was absent 5:50pm-6:30pm), Dr. Warren, and Mr. Tandogan.

Mr. Gibson and Mr. Zhang were absent.

Non-Board Members in attendance, joined via WebEx conference call: Mr. Gardberg, legal counsel, Mr. Ercan, Mr. Nick, Mr. Gunozu, Ms. Peevy, Mr. Vu, Ms. Nixon, Ms. Hanna, and Ms. Shepard. There were approximately 70 members of the public via WebEx, which consisted of CASLV staff, teachers, parents, and all campus principals.

Pledge of Allegiance

A. Public Comment (*Information*)

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

There were no public comments at the start of the meeting.

B. Consent Agenda (*For Possible Action*)

1. Approval of October 28, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (*For Possible Action*)

Ms. Kazelskis confirmed she has reviewed the minutes.

Ms. Kazelskis made a motion to approve the October 28th board meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Hayman.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

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C. Discussion & Possible Action Items – Policy

1. Distance Learning 30-Day Report *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan presented the number of students at each campus attending in-person instruction. He also presented the number of students and staff members who tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of this school year. Ms. Diggins noted they have similar data reported at the medical school with little transmission at the school due to the protocols and safety measures in place. CASLV informs the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), CASLV board, and Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) about any positive cases.

Each campus sent a survey to the parents regarding a potential change to full blended learning after the winter break. The response rate varies from 68% to 97%, depending on the campus. Parents were asked if conditions allow, should CASLV increase in-person attendance to 40%, and would they send their child to school. The rate of parents willing to have students return to in-person learning varied from 37% at Windmill to 75% at Nellis AFB.

Ms. Hanna gave a 504-student update, which includes Saturday sessions, live instruction, as well as extensive monitoring, coordination, communication, etc. A full-time ELL Coordinator has been hired who will help all campuses.

CASLV Administration proposed that school continues current model until the end of January. Beginning on February 1, 2020, starting with full-blended/hybrid instruction for all grades: 5 days/week at Tamarus, Centennial, and Nellis, 4 days/week at Sandy Ridge and Eastgate, and 2 days/week at Windmill with Cohorts A (AM) and B (PM), with cleaning at lunchtime. (If conditions don't allow, continue as is but expand grade levels to 2nd/3rd/4th grades.)

Ms. Kazelskis asked if the teachers have been surveyed. Mr. Ercan stated our HR Director is preparing a teacher survey to be sent in the next day or two. Ms. Kazelskis encourages surveying them. Campus principals described their plans for mixed hybrid/live instruction. Ms. Diggins said she is impressed by the leadership of the principals, and discretion/autonomy given to each of them.

Ms. Kazelskis encourages transparency with parents regarding live instruction, especially if the teacher is working from home. Dr. Warren asked if parents can change their decision and Mr. Ercan confirmed they could at any time.

There were several public comments addressed regarding this agenda item. It was discussed that the plan for Windmill and the possibility of extending assurance pay will be discussed again in January.

Ms. Diggins made a motion to approve the proposal of continuing with the current model of full distant learning, with limited in person learning at all campuses through January 29, 2021, as described. CASLV will begin on February 1, 2021, with full blended learning at all campuses, as proposed, if COVID-19 conditions, guidelines, and regulations issued at the state level are met. This does not include assurance pay for staff at this time. Seconded by Dr. Warren.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

2. 2021/2022 School Year Calendar *(For Possible Action)*

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Mr. Ercan described details of the proposed 2021/2022 school calendar dates stating it aligns with CCSD, family days at Nellis have been honored, and that campus administration discussed it with their administrative teams.

Ms. Hayman made a motion to approve the 2021/2022 school year Academic Calendar for students and staff seconded by Dr. Warren.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

3. COVID 19 Vaccinations Policy Preliminary Discussion *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan explained there is not a policy at this time, but we want to have a preliminary discussion. Mr. Gardberg presented to the board the Pew Research Poll that reveals that 60% of Americans definitely/probably will get vaccinated and 40% will not. This is a liability problem for CASLV, because legislature removed schools from SB4 protections. The American Federation of Teachers supports mandatory policies for teachers. Mr. Gardberg hopes the Nevada Department of Education or the SPCSA mandates it. We can mandate vaccines, but subject to: (a) **medical exemption** (per ADA), if employee has disability backed by evidence; (b) (sincerely-held) **religious exemption** (per Civil Rights Act of '64). Item (a) is stronger (for employees) than (b). solution is employer has to implement reasonable accommodations.

Mr. Gardberg stated hospital workers have had mandatory vaccines for years, and courts approved. However, not all hospitals are requiring COVID vaccine because it is deemed "**experimental**". This is expected to change upon full approval. Overall it is recommended "encouraging" vaccinations, not requiring it. Mr. Gardberg suggested we revisit this in January. Ms. Diggins, Ms. Kazelskis, and Mr. Tandogan agreed. Dr. Warren said we have time to see how vaccination proceeds.

No action

D. Discussion & Possible Action Items – **Facilities, Finance and Operations**

1. Amendment of the Charter Amendment Application *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan presented details of the amendment to the charter amendment application noting the location change, needs amendment, and community collaboration. This will be our second campus with Pre-K and will grow with our own students to high school. We have received support letters from businesses in the area and our community partners in this new neighborhood. Since we are amending our application, we need to resubmit it outside of the regular cycle. CASLV is also required to provide a good cause exception letter. The SPCSA said they would accept it, special thanks to them for accommodating us.

Ms. Hayman made a motion to approve the amendment of the Charter Amendment Application to reflect the Cadence/Pittman campus with the good cause exception letter, seconded by Ms. Kazelskis.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

2. Purchase of the Land *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan stated we have been searching for land for many years. Our West Henderson opportunity is still priced quite high and is not firm. As our Board encouraged us to look in East Henderson, Cadence Master Development has now made an offer. The land is larger (20 acres) and just 2 miles away from our

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Eastgate campus. The surrounding public schools are low performing with 1 or 2-Star ratings. There are also better demographics in this area. The FRL percentages are higher, which increases the likelihood of SPCSA approval. Neighboring in this Pittman area is a district elementary school, which has a 2-Star rating and 100% FRL population. Additionally, it neighbors empty land, which illuminates problems.

Mr. Ercan discussed this opportunity with Mr. Gibson and Ms. Diggins, they were both thrilled and agreed to pursue. Therefore, we must submit our amendment on Friday, December 18, 2020 if our Board approves today. The SPCSA board will hear at their January 22, 2021 board meeting. Upon their anticipated approval, CASLV will hire the architect and acquire GMP, so bonds can be sold in late Spring/early Summer.

Ms. Diggins and Ms. Hayman agreed that this location is more desirable as we are closer to FRL populations. Ms. Kazelskis asked if this would replace Eastgate. It will be a safety net if needed.

John Phan (Financial Advisor): Since his last presentation, interest rates have descended and are now at all-time lows. It is a great time to do financing. We might expect fewer than 4.3% for 35 yrs. Low 4s or high 3s might be possible! The wait list is a positive CASLV strength. Remarkably, CASLV is financially strong and can take on more debt.

It was asked if we should we wait until June. Mr. Phan said that is a tough question. He generally says yes if we like current rates. Problem: (1) No GMP (2) Bond funds before we can construct (so just accrues interest). He thinks the GMP affect might be very minor for CASLV due to the BBB- rating. Mr. Nick stated the risk is high if there's no GMP.

It was also discussed that there is a 10-year lockout period so we cannot refinance the 2014/2017 bonds.

Mr. Gardberg informed the board CASLV has the following supporting documents:

1. Signed Term Sheet (non-binding) & 2 Maps
2. Draft Purchase Sale Agreement (PSA)

Mr. Gardberg is involved in both. Regarding the PSA: The Board's version is his first turn of the document back to opposing counsel. Despite the many edits, overall the PSA is normal/customary. This should go back and forth and be finalized by Christmas. Mr. Gardberg stated the key legal issues:

- "As Is" purchase (§10.1): *We take it with all faults*. Similar to Nellis, Centennial, and Eastgate campus deals. Priority is on CASLV doing due diligence (e.g., Phase I environmental; soils test; title review).
- Contingencies: (1) Board approval. (2) SPCSA approval. (3) Financing (i.e., bonds). (4) Misc. others (e.g., Seller obtains all land-use permitting, installs utilities & road, etc.). There is \$100k deposit required that is not at risk during due the diligence period.

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Dr. Warren supports this because it sounds like a good deal. Mr. Tandogan said he also supports this but be careful of caliche, and Mr. Gardberg said we are looking at this. Ms. Hayman asked about floodplain.

Ms. Diggins made a motion to approve the proposed purchase of the land, with the additional authorization to Mr. Gardberg and Mr. Ercan to negotiate on behalf of the board. The PSA details, and signing authority brought back to Ms. Diggins, seconded by Mr. Tandogan.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

E. Information/Discussion Items

1. Financial Update by DMS

Mr. Paul Houry with DMS presented the financial update. CASLV is in a very strong cash position and is a strong performing school. Compliments were given to Mr. Nick for continuing to have very positive reports. Ms. Diggins stated this is really good considering the pandemic.

2. Report of Purchases and Expenses Between \$10,000 and \$25,000 (*Information*)

Mr. Ercan informed the board there have been no purchases over 10,000 since the last board meeting.

3. Executive Director's Progress Report (*Information*)

Mr. Ercan discussed CASLV's accomplishments and important information regarding students and school clubs with the board.

- Best of Las Vegas: CASLV won GOLD in all four categories of Best High School, Best Middle School, Best Charter School, and Best Elementary School.
- 100% Cohort Graduation Rate: Special thank you to the team at Sandy Ridge. Mr. Ercan reviewed details of the rating with the board.
- National Debate Eastgate Campus: Congratulations to the Eastgate Debate Team and Coach Ms. Obispo. They were amazing at the National Speech and Debate Tournament.
- Noetic Learning Math Contest: Congratulations to the Math Team and Coach Mr. Marul. They participated in the Noetic Learning Math Contest and were successful.
- Debate Team Sandy Ridge Campus: Congratulations to the CASLV Debate Team and Coach Ms. Sloan. They competed in 2 different tournaments; LaCosta tournament and the Golden Desert local tournament. Mr. Ercan reviewed the placements and winners.
- 2020 UNLV Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award: Congratulations to CASLV Alum, Mary Blankenship.
- FOX5 Las Vegas at Nellis AFB Campus: CASLV Nellis Campus welcomed a portion of students back for in-person learning featured on FOX5 Las Vegas in October.
- Applications for the 2021-2022 School Year: Mr. Ercan reviewed the application numbers campus by campus.

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- National Merit Scholarship Program (NSMP): This year, four of our Sandy Ridge Campus students qualified as the Semifinalist in the 65th Annual NSMP!
- Next Board Meeting: The next board meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2020 at 11:00 am but there will be another board meeting scheduled in January.

F. Public Comments (*Information*)

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

Josh Baker (parent): stated he is concerned about Eastgate's litigation, so he is thrilled to hear about a Plan B of the new proposed campus at Cadence Master Development. Mr. Baker asked that CASLV communicate with parents when they can. Ms. Diggins said much energy/resources have gone into this. Mr. Gardberg added that we have no real developments.

G. Adjournment (*Action*)

Ms. Hayman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Warren.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.