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APPROVED MINUTES

CORAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE LAS VEGAS REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF

GOVERNORS

Meeting Information

Date: February 27, 2021
Time: 11:00 a.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 11:10 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: Joined via video and conference call WebEx: Ms. Diggins, Ms. Kazelskis, Ms. Hayman, Mr. Gibson, Dr. Warren, and Mr. Tandogan.

Mr. Zhang was absent.

Non-Board Members in attendance, joined via WebEx conference call included: Mr. Gardberg, legal counsel, Mr. Ercan, Mr. Nick, Mr. Gunozu, Ms. Peevy, Mr. Vu, Ms. Flores, Ms. Nhan, and Ms. Shepard. There were approximately 30 members of the public via WebEx, which consisted of CASLV staff, teachers, and parents.

Pledge of Allegiance

A. Public Comment (*Information*)

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

Jennifer Andreevski (parent): She champions the return to live education for academic reasons. She expressed concerns with CASLV’s Windmill campus plan, and that she would like to have 5 full days in-person instruction.

Cynthia Eaton (parent): She hopes the school will vote to reopen and that the decision does not change between now and March 15th.

Ms. Diggins thanked everyone for their comments and explained the reopening plan will be discussed later in the meeting.

B. Consent Agenda (*For Possible Action*)

- 1. Approval of December 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (*For Possible Action*)**

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Ms. Kazelskis confirmed the minutes are accurate and made a motion to approve the December 16, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Dr. Warren.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

C. Discussion & Possible Action Items – Policy

1. 30-Day Review of Current Instruction Model and Related COVID-19 School Developments *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan presented the following information:

- Nevada schools currently operating with in-person instruction for at least 20 days can, under the Governor's new directive (#38), transition from 50% of max capacity of each room at a school site (per fire code), to 75% or 250 students, whichever is less.
- Similarly, the social distancing minimum allowable distance between all students must be at least 3 ft. (For High School students, it was 6 ft.). The social distancing minimum allowable distance between adults (staff/teachers) must be minimum 6 ft. (as the distance between each adult and distance between an adult and students).
- At CASLV, the 3 ft. distance will still be a challenge due to the smaller classroom sizes at some of our campuses. Our Administration is doing their best to bring more students onsite.

Dr. Warren requested the school communicate this limitation to parents. Mr. Ercan explained our intention is starting full day in August, however it is uncertain if the 3' social distance will be relaxed.

- Students and adults must have face coverings inside buildings at all times (except when playing an instrument which requires them to use their mouth).
- SPCSA's Board voted to remove previous limits on in-person learning. Specifically, the previous limit on in-person learning (40% of the total enrollment) for counties flagged by the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force is no longer applicable. This means that all SPCSA authorized charter schools, regardless of location, are subject to the prevailing directives from the Governor.

Mr. Ercan presented a graph outlining the percentage of students participating in in-person instruction, the percentage of students that will return to in-person instruction starting March 15th, the number of staff members who cannot teach in-person, current grade levels having in-person instruction, and the number of students starting March 15th with all grade levels at each campus. A Covid-19 summary table noting the total number Covid-19 cases district wide was reviewed. Mr. Ercan reports weekly to the board of governors regarding each Covid-19 case.

Regarding the impact of the pandemic on academics, Mr. Ercan reviewed the 2020 ACT proficiency results that were recently released and said he is very proud of our students' success and our teachers' dedication. Our school is at 72% for math and English language arts, which are the highest percentages among the SPCSA authorized charter schools and significantly higher than the state's and SPCSA's average percentages.

We have been working very hard to get staff members vaccinated. We currently have 269 staff members and 146 have notified us they have been vaccinated.

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Mr. Ercan stated the plan for the 4th quarter starting March 15th is full/blended hybrid instruction for all grade levels at all campuses 5-days a week. We will have AM/PM (Early Bird/Late Bird) schedules at all campuses. Students will have lunch at home.

Mr. Ercan asked if the board has any questions. Dr. Warren stated the plan looks good and this is a really hard time but we are doing the best we can. No one approach will please all families. Ms. Hayman said she recognizes there have been so many changes this year and it is unfortunate for our students, but there is no ideal solution to this problem. Mr. Gibson added he thinks everyone has done a great job, particularly because most of the changes (and limitations) were due to factors outside of the school's control, including the Governor's directives and the pandemic's numbers. Ms. Diggins said flexibility will need to continue and this plan looks very good.

Public comments:

Cynthia Eaton (parent): She expressed concerns that they were told Sandy Ridge will be 5 full days, not half days, and asked if this is correct. Ms. Yolanda Flores, CASLV Sandy Ridge Principal, joined the meeting and explained that they will have 5-full day schedule.

Jennifer Andreevski (parent): She does not understand why Tamarus campus cannot be onsite 5 full days a week. Ms. Bethany Mickey, CASLV Tamarus Assistant Principal, explained it is a combination of the amount of students and the distance learners they have to consider. They are trying to keep cohorts together along with maintaining social distancing within the classroom. Tamarus campus is focusing on balance for all students and staff.

Mr. Selim Tanyeri, CASLV Curriculum and Assessment Director, presented the MAP testing results comparing last winter to this winter for each grade level. The data tells us in-person instruction is better than distance learning. Mr. Ercan explained we are working on hiring additional support to assist students that are low performing.

Ms. Amber Nhan, CASLV Windmill Assistant Principal, presented the following information regarding CASLV Windmill campus' online and in-person instruction:

- Windmill made a team decision to continue with the original schedule in Quarter 3 and will start 5-days-a-week in-person instruction starting March 15th (Quarter 3).
- Windmill has taken careful consideration of each teacher and classroom situation to ensure we are enabling the best classroom environment as possible.
- All teachers attend in-person education based on the block schedule.
- With our consistent structure that works with students using different strategies and programs at various ability levels, Windmill has produced some of the best MAP scores in the district from this Fall to Winter.
- We take the safety of our students and staff very seriously. They look very closely at the recommendations and follow protocols.
- Champions started offering before and after school programs in February.
- Limited in-person instruction started on February 1st for 5th-7th Grades, 27.21% of the student population is on campus. Ms. Nhan reviewed details of the parent survey that was sent regarding experience and recommendation.

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Ms. Diggins asked to confirm that the Windmill campus would start on March 15th with 5 half days of instruction like the other campuses, and Mr. Ercan confirmed that is correct.

Ms. Diggins made a motion to approve the current instruction model and proposals as presented today, seconded by Dr. Warren.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

2. COVID-19 Vaccination Policy *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan explained we drafted a policy with CASLV legal counsel but it would be great to table this at this time. Mr. Gardberg added that is acceptable. More data is needed from staff and other entities as well.

ACTION: Item has been tabled.

3. Cybersecurity Data Security Policy *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan explained that Mr. Deniz, CASLV IT Director, drafted the policy and that Mr. Gardberg's colleague reviewed it. Mr. Ercan and Mr. Deniz gave a brief presentation about the policy. Mr. Gardberg added that it was an excellent draft reviewed by his colleague, a cybersecurity and privacy law practitioner.

Ms. Diggins said this is straightforward.

Ms. Hayman made a motion to approve the Cybersecurity Data Security Policy, seconded by Mr. Tandogan.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

4. Policy to Extend the School's Application of the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which Expired on December 31, 2020. *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan indicated we would like to extend this FFCRA to the end of the school year since the law expired as of December 30, 2020. This is a courtesy to our staff.

Ms. Diggins said this is the right thing to do. Mr. Gibson asked if this can be retroactive to January 1, 2021, and added that he is very impressed and considers this exceptional. Mr. Gardberg added this policy is an excellent draft from administration and was reviewed by his colleague, a labor/employment lawyer, who had no changes, but who in particular applauded the exclusions. Mr. Gibson said he is very impressed with the way CASLV has tried to treat the teachers, faculty, and administration.

Mr. Gibson made a motion to extend the FFCRA policy to be effective starting January 1, 2021, seconded by Ms. Diggins.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

5. Family and Community Engagement Plan *(For Possible Action)*

CASLV administration drafted this plan. Parents were surveyed in October 2020 and the survey was included in the plan. 96% of parents believe CASLV respects different cultures and diversity. However, there are items we can work on. We will celebrate more holidays/cultures. Mr. Ercan explained we are currently in the process of hiring a community engagement coordinator.

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Ms. Kazelskis said she greatly appreciates this policy and is glad we are putting this on paper, as it explains what makes CASLV unique. Ms. Diggins noted this is particularly important as live education returns. Mr. Gibson added it is outstanding, particularly because there is a wrong perception that charters only target a certain affluent demographic, and we can use this to market ourselves to all communities. Ms. Hayman added it is excellent that it's based on surveys from parents.

Ms. Hayman moved that we accept the Family and Community Engagement Plan, seconded by Dr. Warren.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

D. Discussion & Possible Action Items – Facilities and Operations

1. Update on the New Campus Project (*For Possible Action*)

Mr. Ercan stated that the State Public Charter School Association (SPCSA) approved CASLV's expansion on February 26, 2021. The City of Henderson Mayor as well as College of Southern Nevada joined surrounding businesses in support of our new campus. The needs assessment was initially not enough, but administration went door-to-door to solicit support from families and businesses.

The new campus will be on 20 acres of land, with Pre-K to 12th grades and 1,850 students. It will begin with Pre-K to 8th grade in the fall of 2022. Each year, for healthy growth, an additional grade level will be added until we reach 12th grade. We have been working with the bond team vigorously, and will kick the financing project off immediately. Ms. Diggins said the team did an amazing job and the SPCSA approval was smooth.

Mr. Gardberg indicated the purchase sale agreement was approved at the December meeting so there is no further approval of the underlying transaction required.

Ms. Diggins informed the board there were some specific directives and conditions from the SPCSA and in the next few months it will be important to have some working groups to deal with some of the specific items related to the board.

ACTION: No action taken.

Break from 12:40 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

2. Bond Financing Update (*Information*)

Mr. John Phan, CASLV Financial Advisor, presented the financing options to the Board:

- Bond financing.
- Red Hook lease with a purchase option at year 3.
- Wisconsin PFA lease with a purchase option upon bond maturity. This was the recommendation of Financial Advisor.

ACTION: No action taken.

3. Adopt a Resolution of Intent (*For Possible Action*)

Mr. Ercan indicated this is normal and usual for the bond process, to adopt such a resolution before the bonds are issued, to facilitate reimbursement of pre-closing expenses.

Ms. Diggins moved that we adopt the Resolution of Intent to reimburse the school for any expenses related to the bond, seconded by Ms. Hayman.

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ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

4. **Engagement of the Following Forms in Connection with the Bond Financing** *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Phan explained this is the same proposed team as in the 2017/2018 issuances, for consistency and speed. Perhaps cheaper options are in the market but not with the same quality/speed. The team's individual price proposals are market rates, and the fees are contingent on a successful bond closure.

Ms. Diggins moved that we engage the firms recommended under the following list, with the specific notation that the Public Finance Authority is hired as the issuer only (and not as the borrower), seconded by Dr. Warren.

- a. Kutak Rock LLP (Borrower's Counsel)
- b. Campanile Group, Inc. (Financial Advisor)
- c. Howard & Howard Attorneys (Borrower's General Counsel)
- d. Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (Bond Counsel)
- e. Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated (Underwriter)
- f. Public Finance Authority (Issuer Only)

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

E. **Discussion & Possible Action Items – Finance and Governance**

1. **Fiscal Year 20-21 Budget Amendment** *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan indicated the supporting documents list the changes. Mr. Nick said it is based on actual DSA and enrollment numbers, as well as incoming grants. More grants are expected. Mr. Zhang was not available to give feedback, but Mr. Nick said it is straightforward. Ms. Diggins noted it is much better than it looked a year ago. Mr. Tandogan said it looks great, while still being cautious and conservative.

Mr. Tandogan made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Amendment, seconded by Mr. Gibson.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

2. **Edgenuity Program Integration Charge** *(For Possible Action)*

Mr. Ercan explained this is an additional \$6,000 increase to a previously-approved amount at the last meeting, for integration. Ms. Diggins gave pre-approval for this since it was time sensitive.

Ms. Hayman made a motion to approve the Edgenuity Program Integration charge in the amount of \$6,000, seconded by Dr. Warren.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

3. **Computer Purchase for Centennial Hills Campus**

Centennial Hills campus teacher computers are very old and need to be replaced. This is in the budget and since it is over Mr. Ercan's limit he is bringing it to the board for approval.

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Mr. Tandogan made a motion to approve the computer purchase in the amount of \$30,056.00 to XIT Solutions for the Centennial Hills campus, seconded by Ms. Hayman.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

4. 2021-2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Ercan presented our proposed board meeting dates for the next school year and noted that we can make a change if needed. This is just for planning purposes. To a comment from Mr. Gibson, Mr. Ercan said he envisions holding live meetings next school year.

Ms. Diggins made a motion to approve the proposed 2021-2022 Board Meeting Schedule, seconded by Dr. Warren.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

F. Information/Discussion Items

1. Financial Update by DMS (*Information*)

Mr. Paul Khoury presented the January 2021 financials. This does not reflect changes approved in the past action. 68% of total revenues to date have been received. Things are on track. As far as expenditures, we have 56% of expenditures expended. CASLV is very much on track of where we are expected to be. Mr. Khoury highlighted as of January 31, 2021, there is 22.3 million dollars of operating cash on hand, which is 276.7 days of operating cash available. CASLV is extremely healthy and nothing is out of the ordinary that needs to be reported to the board.

Ms. Diggins said it looks good and the board had no questions.

2. SPCSA's SYE 2020 Financial Performance Framework Results (*Information*)

Mr. Ercan explained that just like academics, the SPCSA reviews the financials of the charter schools that they authorized. A report was sent stating we are in good standing and satisfactorily meeting all of their measures.

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

Mr. Ercan reviewed the following expenses with the board.

- Water bottle filling stations were installed at Windmill, Eastgate, and Sandy Ridge campuses, for health and safety reasons. (\$18,930).
- Sandy Ridge exterior doors were not locking well and were replaced (\$11,377.18).
- Pre-K at Nellis had turf and fencing installed which was funded by a grant (\$19,195).
- We also received a grant for ovens that were ordered for Nellis and Sandy Ridge (\$13,559.96).
- Sandy Ridge day porter was secured through our cleaning company but it is an additional expense (\$11,560).
- GoGuardian software fee (\$12,005).
- Replacement of outdated classroom computers at Tamarus campus (\$10,799.88).

Ms. Diggins said this looks very straightforward.

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

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

- CASLV Cadence Campus was approved by the SPCSA.
- There are currently 5,014 applications for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) numbers have increased substantially as this has been a focus. The total increase to date is 30%. The Eastgate Campus has the highest FRL population, with Centennial Hills Campus in second place.
- 2020 ACT Math and ELA Proficiency results compared to other schools. This is a phenomenal success.
- Each campus held virtual open houses and there was considerable interest from prospective parents.
- 39th Annual Las Vegas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Virtual Parade that our students were a part of, and featured in the media.
- CASLV featured on Channel 8 and in the Las Vegas Review Journal regarding students back to the classroom.
- 2021 Sandy Ridge Science Bowl team placed 3rd in the 2020-2021 virtual Nevada Science Bowl regionals and received a check of \$1,500.
- University of Houston High School Math Contest, congratulations to the CASLV math team and coach Mr. Marul. CASLV 6th grade student, Sastha, won 5th place National ranking in the Geometry category.
- The CASLV math team participated in the Mathcounts chapter round. The following students qualified to compete in the chapter invitational which will be held on February 25th: Sastha R., Aditya Y., Daniel J., Arush C., Jaival K, Riya P.
- Congratulations to Elijah Rivero, a 4th grader at CASLV for winning the Travel Nevada Discover Your Nevada Kids flag contest. Governor Sisolak joined to the zoom class to congratulate Elijah. Students asked questions to the Governor and the Governor tested the students with some questions about our great state Nevada.
- CASLV students held a watch party for Mars landing that was featured on FOX5.
- The next board meeting will be on April 10th at 11 a.m. The meeting will be blended with virtual and in-person at the Sandy Ridge gym.

Public Comment:

Jennifer Andreevski (parent): She is disappointed that elementary students are not going back full-time and there is no indication when Tamarus will have that option. Ms. Diggins added that unfortunately Tamarus is a physically small campus and there are legal limitations. The challenge is the 3 ft. social distancing and once that is lifted we can consider it. Mr. Gibson noted that the newly-approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be a game-changer and the Board is prepared to act quickly as circumstances evolve.

G. Privileged & Confidential Attorney/Client Conference with CASLV Legal Counsel pursuant to NRS 241.015(3)(b)(2) (Information, Deliberation). Note: per the Open Meeting Law ("OML"), this constitutes a non-public meeting that is statutorily exempt from the OML.

The closed session took place from 1:55 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.

H. Potential Action(s), if any, re. the legal matters heard during the Closed Session.

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(Item G). *(For Possible Action)*. Note: this may consist, for example, of a decision to submit a written demand on a potential litigant (e.g., a cease-and-desist letter), to authorize litigation, to conduct further legal research, to propose a settlement to a litigant, or to tender a matter to insurance.

ACTION: No action taken.

I. Public Comments *(Information)*

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

No public comment.

J. Adjournment *(Action)*

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

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm.