



Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 25th, 2016, 9:00am-3:30pm

Azalea Room is 4761 Firestone Blvd. (room is located behind the Game Stop store)

Open Session

9:00am Call the Meeting to Order (Overview of Day)

D. Williams

Board Meeting called to Order by D. Williams.

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|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Deena Williams, Board Chair | Present | Carmen Avalos, Board Member | Present |
| Naeem Arastu, Board Member | Present | Mark Racunas, Board Member | Present |
| Rudi Bonaparte, Board Treasurer | Present | Tyler Thurlow, Board Member | Present |
| Jessica Boro, Board Member | Present | Jennifer Bunn Hayden | Present |

Additional Attendees: Samira Estilai, ExED Representative, Carlos Alvarez-Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Dr. Esther Perez, Executive Director.

9:15am Public Comment

D. Williams

Public Comment made by current 6th grade student at Valiente. Student shared how experience at Valiente has been different than his prior middle school (South Gate Middle School). Board thanked student for sharing his student perspective.

9:20am Approve: Board Member Addition - Eric Young

D. Williams

Board reviewed experience of Eric Young as a prospective Valiente Board of Director. Mr. Young brings experience with budget, financing, forecasting, and a plethora of other operational skills. Mr. Young is interested in being a board member to continue helping improve the educational opportunities available to all students in and near Los Angeles.

Board Voted to approve Eric Young as a Valiente Board Member as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Deena Williams, Board Chair | Approve | Carmen Avalos, Board Member | Approve |
| Naeem Arastu, Board Member | Approve | Mark Racunas, Board Member | Approve |
| Rudi Bonaparte, Board Treasurer | Approve | Tyler Thurlow, Board Member | Approve |
| Jessica Boro, Board Member | Approve | Jennifer Bunn Hayden | Approve |

Eric Young approved for board membership unanimously, term ends 9-25-2019.

Additional Notes: Board discussed that Valiente should address needs at open Board Member positions. Benjamin Arastu is no longer a Valiente Board Member (since January 2016), and thus, the Board still needs an active Secretary. This will be addressed in future Board Meetings.

9:25am Council in Schools - Executive Director's Report *E. Perez*

Executive Director Lead short Council in Schools Activity. Group discussed the benefits of being able to utilize this strategy for multiple areas of student growth including not just social or emotionally but also academically.

9:55am Review: Financial Report *ExED, Inc. Representative*

Samira Estilai reviewed financial dashboards. Low enrollment definitely impacted potential positive balances for Valiente. However, even with lowered enrollment, Valiente is still meeting its financial obligations. The school could be more secure by enrolling at least a few more students.

10:25am Review: Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Academic Report *C. Alvarez*

Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Carlos Alvarez, led session. Initial Academic results show that much improvement is needed in all subject areas. More information will come in future board meetings.

10:40am Review: Year 1 & 2 plans/goals, & Strategic Growth- Facilities, Academic/Curriculum, Governance (Board development) *E. Perez/ D. Williams*

D. Williams and E. Perez discuss most important areas for growth. Valiente needs to ensure facilities are address which then allow the school to focus on academics, curriculum and eventual governance.

Short Bathroom Break taken. Meeting Paused 11:20am to 11:30am.

11:20am *Break - Pause Session & Re-Open*

11:30am Goal Setting Primer *D. Williams*

D. Williams discussed need for goals to be created by Committees in charge of Governance, finance, academics, and facilities.

11:40am Committee Breakouts: Review Committee Topics & Ideas *ALL*

- a) Governance
- b) Finance
- c) Academics
- d) Facilities

During this time frame, various committees met. A summary of each committee's main findings is located below (1:45pm) when each group shared their findings and thoughts on each topic.

12:40pm Working Lunch *ALL*

(a) Fundraising

D. Williams

Group Discussed various ways to fundraise. Board Members will donate approximately 250\$ each year (at different times) if they are able to in order to help the school with various purchases. Potential events discussed, but nothing finalized. Finance committee to discuss more during their breakout session.

(b) Board Member Communications

D. Williams

-Photos for website, Sept. 26th, 2016

Board reminded that photos for website will be taken the next day (September 26th) at Valiente. Valiente College Prep's website is being overhauled and new photos are needed.

1:30pm

Gallery Walk

All board members allowed to visit various posters with notes, questions, and potential goals within each committee area. Members wrote further notes or questions to help flesh out ideas.

1:45pm

Committee Breakouts/Share Outs

ALL

- a) Governance - Governance committee discussed the potential creating of a pipeline for new board members, an executive director evaluation, a board meeting evaluation, brown act policies, and the board calendar.
- b) Finance - Finance committee discussed fundraising, and the biggest need is to know what the run-rate for students are. By knowing this, the board could make more educated decisions on funding choices/options, and potentially moving forward with various goals or initiatives.
- c) Academics - Academic committee discussed creating a middle school curriculum for 7th graders. Also discussed how enrollment is tied to making certain hiring (single vs multiple subject) as well as the need for the DCI to create academic dashboards in order for the board to have pertinent and up to date academic data at all times.
- d) Facilities - Facilities Committee discussed the need to gather data on local properties, including the existing site. Discussed a plan of action to start asking questions about appropriate construction (if applicable) at current site, and/or how to proceed with a few leads for properties.

3:00pm Board Meeting Debrief

D. Williams Summarized moving forward in a united fashion. Board is happy with progress made in terms of thinking through some of the most pertinent aspects of Valiente growing. Size of Valiente for the 17-18 school year discussed.

3:30pm Adjourn Meeting

D. Williams

D. Williams Adjourned meeting at 3:27pm (motion by Mark Racunas, Seconded by Carmen Avalos).

****No Closed Session Needed at This Meeting.*