

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING – August 27, 2019

Members present – Rachael Anne Elrod, Jill Speering, Christiane Buggs (Vice-chair), Fran Bush, Amy Frogge, Will Pinkston, Gini Pupo-Walker, Sharon Gentry (Chair), Adrienne Battle

Members absent – Anna Shepherd

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

CONVENE and ACTION

- A. Call to Order
Dr. Gentry called the meeting to order.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Dr. Gentry, Board Chair.
- C. Quorum Validation
There was a quorum present at the meeting.
- D. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adoption the agenda.

By Christiane Buggs, seconded Ms. Pupo-walker

Motion Passes

Vote 8-0 Unanimous

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- A. Consent
 - a. **Approval of Minutes – 08/13/2019 – Regular Meeting**
 - b. **Recommended Approval of Supplement #4 for John Overton High School Additions and Renovations – TM Partners, PLLC**
 - c. **Recommended Approval of Change Order #8 for John Overton High School Additions and Renovations – American Constructors, Inc.**
 - d. **Awarding of Purchases and Contracts**
 - 1. **AT&T**
 - 2. **Basis Policy Research**
 - 3. **Ceramic Techniques**
 - 4. **Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company (CHLIC), Allegiance COBRA Services, Inc.,**
 - 5. **& HealthSpring Life and Health Insurance Company, Inc.**
 - 6. **Claim Technologies Inc.**
 - 7. **EyeMed Vision Care**
 - 8. **Global Payments, Inc. dba Heartland School Solutions**
 - 9. **Institutional Wholesale Co. Inc. (2 contracts)**
 - 10. **Lipscomb University**

11. Metis Associates, Inc.
 12. Mid-South Bus Center Inc.
 13. Multi-Health Systems Inc.
 14. NCS Pearson, Inc.
 15. Riddell Sports
 16. Riverside Assessments, LLC dba Riverside Insights
 17. Tennessee Department of Human Services
 18. The Grant Evaluation Group, Inc. dba The Evaluation Group
 19. The Woodway Fisher Group
 20. University of Pittsburgh dba Institute for Learning
 21. Vanderbilt University Medical Center
 22. Waste Management of Tennessee Inc.
- e. Legal Settlement Claim L-16748 (\$16,000)
 - f. Legal Settlement Claim L-16550 (\$30,000)
 - g. Legal Settlement Claim L-15939 (\$225,000)
 - h. Legal Settlement Claim (\$12,000)
 - i. Legal Settlement Claim (\$35,000)

Ms. Buggs read the consent agenda.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as read.

By Jill Speering, seconded Christiane Buggs

Motion Passes

Vote: 8-0 Unanimous

B. Knowledge Academies

Ms. Harkey updated the Board on the Knowledge Academies lawsuit.

Mr. Queen presented a PowerPoint to the Board.

Ms. Bush read a resolution (see attached)

Motion to revoke the charter agreement of Knowledge Academy.

By Will Pinkston, seconded Fran Bush

Motion Passes

Vote: 8-0 Unanimous

Motion to revoke the charter agreement of KA @ The Crossings.

By Will Pinkston, seconded Fran Bush

Motion Passes

Vote: 8-0 Unanimous

Motion to revoke the charter agreement of Knowledge Academy High School.

By Will Pinkston, seconded Fran Bush

Motion Passes

Vote: 8-0 Unanimous

Motion to make the revocation of the KA charter agreement for Knowledge Academy, effective at the conclusion of this semester, December 14, 2019, as opposed to at the end of the school year, based upon the Board's finding of fraud, misappropriation of funds, flagrant disregard of the charter agreement, or similar conduct, as evidenced by: (1) Knowledge Academies' failure to deliver promised scholarship money \$500.000 to parents who relied on the school's promises in choosing Knowledge Academies for their child. The school's misleading representations to families regarding scholarship money amount to fraud. (2) Knowledge Academies' misappropriation of funds intended for the education of students.

Knowledge Academies has an extensive history of fiscal mismanagement and misappropriation of tax dollars operating with a deficit of 4835,878, despite touting an annual revenue of \$7.1 million, including losing substantial amounts of public money in the amount of \$270,000 in an online phishing scam, deficit balances; the failure to pay teachers on time; and the lease of school buildings to outside businesses (including at least one for-profit business) without clear documentation of where the rental proceeds went. The schools' founder has now disappeared, no one can account for the public tax dollars that are missing, and the school has repeatedly ignored requests from MNPS for documentation to explain fiscal irregularities. (3) Knowledge

Academies' flagrant disregard of its charter agreements. Knowledge Academies outsourced management of its operations to a Florida-based charter management company, Noble Education Initiative, that has close ties to a for-profit corporation, without the required approval by the Board of Education. Knowledge Academies did this without explaining the scope of the new management to MNPS' Charter Schools Office, without informing the MNPS Board about the change, and without MNPS approval of the NEI contract. (4) Knowledge Academies' failure to respond to repeated request from the MNPS Charter Office to provide required documentations that might allow the board to find otherwise.

By Amy Frogge, seconded Fran Bush

Motion Passes

Vote: 6-2

Motion to make the revocation of the KA charter agreement for Knowledge Academy High School, effective at the conclusion of this semester, December 14, 2019, as opposed to at the end of the school year, based upon the Board's finding of fraud, misappropriation of funds, flagrant disregard of the charter agreement, or similar conduct, as evidenced by: (1) Knowledge Academies' failure to deliver promised scholarship money \$500.000 to parents who relied on the school's promises in choosing Knowledge Academies for their child. The school's misleading representations to families regarding scholarship money amount to fraud. (2) Knowledge Academies' misappropriation of funds intended for the

education of students. Knowledge Academies has an extensive history of fiscal mismanagement and misappropriation of tax dollars operating with a deficit of 4835,878, despite touting an annual revenue of \$7.1 million, including losing substantial amounts of public money in the amount of \$270,000 in an online phishing scam, deficit balances; the failure to pay teachers on time; and the lease of school buildings to outside businesses (including at least one for-profit business) without clear documentation of where the rental proceeds went. The schools' founder has now disappeared, no one can account for the public tax dollars that are missing, and the school has repeatedly ignored requests from MNPS for documentation to explain fiscal irregularities. (3) Knowledge Academies' flagrant disregard of its charter agreements. Knowledge Academies outsourced management of its operations to a Florida-based charter management company, Noble Education Initiative, that has close ties to a for-profit corporation, without the required approval by the Board of Education. Knowledge Academies did this without explaining the scope of the new management to MNPS' Charter Schools Office, without informing the MNPS Board about the change, and without MNPS approval of the NEI contract. (4) Knowledge Academies' failure to respond to repeated request from the MNPS Charter Office to provide required documentations that might allow the board to find otherwise.

By Amy Frogge, seconded Fran Bush

Motion Passes

Vote: 6-2

Motion to make the revocation of the KA charter agreement for KA @ The Crossings, effective at the conclusion of this semester, December 14, 2019, as opposed to at the end of the school year, based upon the Board's finding of fraud, misappropriation of funds, flagrant disregard of the charter agreement, or similar conduct, as evidenced by: (1) Knowledge Academies' failure to deliver promised scholarship money \$500,000 to parents who relied on the school's promises in choosing Knowledge Academies for their child. The school's misleading representations to families regarding scholarship money amount to fraud. (2) Knowledge Academies' misappropriation of funds intended for the education of students. Knowledge Academies has an extensive history of fiscal mismanagement and misappropriation of tax dollars operating with a deficit of 4835,878, despite touting an annual revenue of \$7.1 million, including losing substantial amounts of public money in the amount of \$270,000 in an online phishing scam, deficit balances; the failure to pay teachers on time; and the lease of school buildings to outside businesses (including at least one for-profit business) without clear documentation of where the rental proceeds went. The schools' founder has now disappeared, no one can account for the public tax dollars that are missing, and the school has repeatedly ignored requests from MNPS for documentation to explain fiscal irregularities. (3) Knowledge Academies' flagrant disregard of its charter agreements. Knowledge Academies outsourced management of its operations to a Florida-based charter management company, Noble Education Initiative, that has close ties to a for-profit corporation, without the required approval by the Board of Education. Knowledge Academies did this without explaining the scope of the new management to MNPS' Charter

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By Amy Frogge, seconded Fran Bush

Motion Passes

Vote: 6-2

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. ACT Strategic Plan – Dr. Changas presented to the Board.

B. HR Update Update – Dr. Majors presented to the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Ms. Speering congratulated Mr. Brooks, Hunters Lane Band teacher for receiving the Murfreesboro NAACP Freedom Fund Man of the Year Award.

B. Ms. Elrod encouraged the community to apply and spread the word that MNPS is hiring bus drivers.

C. Ms. Buggs congratulated Warner Arts Magnet Elementary for meeting the requirements to be a Reward School. She also congratulated Pearl Cohn Entertainment Magnet School for their success and growth.

D. Ms. Pupo-Walker thanked the EL office for their hard work.

E. Ms. Frogge congratulated Middle College high school for being a Reward Schools in her district.

WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

A. Sales Tax Collections as of August 20, 2019

Ms. Frogge adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.



Chris M. Henson

Board Secretary

Sharon Gentry

Board Chair

Date