



209 W. JACKSON BLVD., SUITE 500 · CHICAGO, IL 60606 · (312) 637-3900 · WWW.ACEROSCHOOLS.ORG

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, June 26, 2018
6:00 PM

Officer Donald J. Marquez Elementary School
2916 W. 47th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60632

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

At 6:05 PM, Chairwoman Rojas called the meeting of the Board of Directors of Acero Charter Schools, Inc. (“Board”) to order. General Counsel Araceli De La Cruz took the roll call as follows:

Present: Chairwoman Rojas, Vice Chairman Hewitt, Secretary Matias, Ms. Sisler, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Neier Beran, Mr. Harris, Ms. Yeager
(present via conference call)
Absent: Treasurer Yohanan

With five members initially present, a quorum was established.

1.01 Participation via Telephone

Chairwoman Rojas moved, and Ms. Sisler seconded, to allow for the participation of Ms. Yeager via telephone pursuant to Section 7(a) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Ayes: Chairwoman Rojas, Vice Chairman Hewitt, Ms. Sisler,
Ms. Neier Beran, Mr. Harris
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Treasurer Yohanan

Motion carried.

2. Review of Minutes

2.01 Board Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2018

2.02 Academic Committee Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2018

2.03 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2018

2.04 Operations Committee Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2018

2.05 Audit, Compliance & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2018

Ms. Sisler moved, and Ms. Neier Beran seconded, to approve open session minutes from the April 24, 2018 Meeting of the Acero Board, the May 23, 2018 Meeting of the Board's Academic Committee, the June 1, 2018 Meeting of the Board's Governance Committee, the June 20, 2018 Meeting of the Board's Operations Committee, and the June 21, 2018 Meeting of the Board's Audit, Compliance and Finance Committee.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 3

Motion carried.

Ms. Sisler next moved, and Ms. Neier Beran seconded, to approve the closed session minutes from the June 20, 2018 Meeting of the Board's Operations Committee and to keep the minutes closed as the need for confidentiality exists due to the discussion of security procedures.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 3

Motion carried.

2.06 Semi-Annual Review of Minutes

Secretary Sisler moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, to approve Board Resolution 1718-007, which follows the recommendations made by counsel to maintain certain enumerated minutes as closed.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 3

Motion carried.

As a result of the approved Board Resolution 1718-007, the following actions have been taken:

The Board has determined that the continued need for confidentiality exists, and the following closed session minutes shall remain closed:

- i. The following meetings of the UCSN Academic Committee: April 2, 2014; May 22, 2014; February 13, 2015; March 20, 2015; March 30, 2015; November 24, 2015; February 27, 2016; April 9, 2016; and October 14, 2016.
- ii. The following meeting of the UCSN Executive Committee: February 22, 2017.
- iii. The following meetings of the UCSN Board: April 26, 2017; and June 28, 2017.
- iv. The following meeting of the Acero Executive Committee: September 11, 2017; March 1, 2018.
- v. The following meeting of the Acero Academic Committee: March 19, 2018.

3. Chairwoman's Remarks

Chairwoman Rojas greeted all attendees and welcomed everyone to Marquez. Ms. Rojas offered attendees the opportunity to use a headset to listen to the Board proceedings in Spanish.

Ms. Rojas next provided some historical context to Marquez School, which was named in honor of Officer Donald J. Marquez, a 20-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department who was killed in the line of duty. Ms. Rojas highlighted some of the other accomplishments of Marquez School and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

Ms. Rojas also reiterated the Board policy that individuals wishing to make public comment registered twenty four hours in advance of the meeting and that a list of registered speakers is available for attendees. Finally, Ms. Rojas introduced Marquez Principal Alison Hansen.

[Mr. Rodriguez and Secretary Matias entered the meeting]

4. Principal's Welcome

Principal Hansen welcomed everyone to Marquez, provided an overview of Marquez's core values and achievements in math and reading growth, and recognized the hard work of the Marquez teachers, students, and families. Principal Hansen next introduced members of the cast of the school's production of The Lion King, and the students performed two scenes from the musical.

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer Richard Rodriguez thanked everyone for attending the meeting and congratulated Principal Hansen and her staff for the great work at Marquez. CEO Rodriguez next recapped recent Acero events, including recent graduation ceremonies, rates of 8th grade acceptances at selective enrollment schools, college scholarship awards of high school seniors, and the establishment of the Somos Scholarship Fund. CEO Rodriguez concluded his remarks by expressing optimism towards the future growth of Acero.

6. Chief Education Officer's Report

Director of Curriculum and Assessment, Mr. Evan Gutierrez, next presented the Chief Education Officer's report on behalf of Joel Pollack. Mr. Gutierrez highlighted the fact that K-8 growth and achievement is above national averages. Mr. Gutierrez summarized the current data and trends in SAT scores and college preparedness, which showed growth across all three high schools. Additionally, Mr. Gutierrez welcomed the addition of instructional leaders in STEM, Humanities, and Personalized Learning as a method to help professionals improve instructional practices. Finally, Mr. Gutierrez recognized Ms. Garcia, a Tamayo Spanish Language Arts teacher, as Acero's Teacher of the Year.

7. Academic Committee Report

Ms. Yeager reported on the May 23, 2018 meeting of the Committee. At this meeting, the Committee discussed the college readiness of Acero high school students, Acero School's instructional model and the recent Innovation grant winners, including the launch of an after school STEM program for girls at Clemente and the "NoRedInk" writing curriculum at Garcia H.S. Also discussed was Advanced Placement (AP) instruction and testing, as well as college enrollment.

8. Governance Committee Report

Ms. Sisler, Chair of the Governance Committee, reported on the June 1, 2018 meeting of the Committee, which began with the Committee's responsibility to review expiring Board member terms and recommendations relative to Board Officer nominations and Board Committee assignments.

8.01 Renewal of Board Member Terms

Ms. Sisler moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, to approve the renewal of the terms of Douglass Hewitt, Simon Yohanan, and Margie Yeager. The new terms will expire in June, 2020.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

8.02 Annual Election of Board Officers

Ms. Sisler next moved, and Ms. Neier Beran seconded, to approve the following Officers for the 2018-2019 term:

Chair – Yeni Rojas
Vice Chair – Douglass Hewitt
Secretary – Roxanne Matias
Treasurer – Simon Yohanan

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

8.03 Appointment of Board Committee Members

Ms. Sisler next moved, and Mr. Hewitt seconded, to approve the assignment of the following Board Members to committees:

Academic Committee – Marco Rodriguez
Governance Committee – Kelwin Harris

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

Chairwoman Rojas appointed Director Matias as the Chair of the Governance Committee.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

8.04 Consideration of Proposed 2018-2019 Board Meeting Dates

Ms. Sisler moved, and Ms. Matias seconded, to approve the following meeting dates for the 2018-2019 term:

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 6:00 PM
Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 6:00 PM for the Annual Meeting

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

8.05 Consideration of Recommendation to Revise Acero's Code of Ethics Policy

Ms. Sisler next discussed proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies in an effort to streamline the policies, provide greater clarity, and ensure terms were consistently defined.

Ms. Sisler moved, and Mr. Rodriguez seconded, to approve the proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics Policy.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

8.06 Consideration of Recommendation to Revise Acero’s Conflict of Interest Policy
Ms. Sisler moved, and Ms. Matias seconded, to approve the proposed revisions to Acero’s Conflict of Interest Policy.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

8.07 Consideration of Recommendation to Amend the Executive Committee Charter
Ms. Sisler moved, and Mr. Rodriguez seconded, to approve an amendment to the Executive Committee charter to allow the Executive Committee to hear Board Member related conflict of interest matters for referral to the full Board.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

9. Operations Committee Report

Mr. Hewitt reported on several matters discussed at the June 20, 2018 meeting of the Operations Committee.

9.01 Consideration of Sole Source Procurement for Cameras

Mr. Hewitt discussed that Acero required service to its Genetec security cameras and, after requesting proposals, only one local vendor was able to provide the service. Mr. Hewitt moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, to approve the sole source procurement for security cameras with CDW Government, LLC., as recommended by the Committee.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

9.02 Consideration of Contract for Printing Services

Mr. Hewitt next reported that the Committee discussed a proposed contract for managed printing services through the U.S. Communities cooperative purchasing group, which was competitively bid in accordance with Acero’s procurement standards. The U.S. Communities contract with Ricoh/Impact Networking meets Acero’s managed printing needs and includes equipment replacement, maintenance, and supplies in a cost-effective manner. Mr. Hewitt moved, and Ms. Matias seconded, to approve the managed printing services contract with Impact Networking LLC, subject to final approval by Acero’s General Counsel.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

9.03 Consideration of Contract for Masonry Repairs

The Committee also discussed the upcoming masonry restoration project at Brighton Park, Fuentes, and Marquez. Bids were solicited in accordance with Acero’s Procurement Policy, and the bid selected was from Bulley and Andrews, LLC. Mr. Hewitt moved, and Mr. Rodriguez seconded, to approve the masonry restoration contract with Bulley and Andrews, LLC., subject to final review by Acero’s General Counsel.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

Mr. Hewitt concluded his remarks by recapping additional topics discussed by the Committee, including the ongoing work of the strategic planning project, an upcoming project to comprehensively assess Acero’s Information Technology Department, and a closed session discussion regarding security procedures.

10. Audit, Compliance and Finance Committee Report

Mr. Hewitt reported on the June 21, 2018 meeting of the Audit, Compliance and Finance Committee, which heard from Michael Bradley, Acero’s Chief Financial Officer, regarding the proposed FY19 Budget and from Araceli De La Cruz, Acero’s General Counsel/Chief Administrative Officer, regarding Acero’s portfolio of insurance policies.

10.01 Consideration of Recommendation to Approve Acero’s FY19 Budget

At the Committee meeting, CFO Bradley presented on the proposed FY19 budget, and the Committee member discussed the key assumptions and considerations factored into the creation of the budget. Mr. Hewitt moved, and Ms. Neier Beran seconded, to approve the FY19 budget as proposed by CFO Bradley.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

10.02 Consideration of Recommendation to Renew Insurance Policies

Mr. Hewitt reported that, at the Committee meeting, Ms. De La Cruz discussed the process by which Acero’s insurance broker reviewed Acero’s policy coverages and obtained market responses for renewal quotes. Mr. Hewitt additionally reported that Acero could save on premium costs by switching to another Worker’s Compensation provider, and that all Board members were provided information relative to the various policies in advance of tonight’s meeting. Mr. Hewitt moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, to approve the renewal of Acero’s portfolio of insurance policies as presented to the Committee by Ms. De La Cruz.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

11. Consideration of Board Resolution to Recognize Board Member’s Service

Ms. Rojas next recognized Director Janet Sisler’s commitment and service to Acero. Ms. Sisler will be resigning after tonight’s meeting. Ms. Rojas moved, and Ms. Matias seconded, to approve Board Resolution 1718-008, which recognizes the service of Ms. Janet Sister.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

The full language of the approved Board Resolution 1718-008 is as follows:

BR-1718-008 HONORING JANET SISLER FOR SERVICE

*RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ACERO CHARTER SCHOOLS
INC.*

WHEREAS, Director Sisler contributed her time and professional expertise to help advance the Acero Schools mission and vision;

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to express its gratitude for her dedicated service as a Director and as a member of the Academic and Governance Committees; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Acero Schools wishes to recognize and commend Janet Sisler for her service on the Board of Directors from July 2014 through June 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors of Acero Schools hereby thanks Director Sisler for her dedication and exemplary service as a member of the Board of Directors, and commends her for her diligent efforts on behalf of our students.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned officers of the Board certify that the foregoing resolution has been adopted by the Board at a duly convened meeting of the Board on June 26, 2018.

12. Public comment

Chairwoman Rojas opened the meeting to public comment. Three speakers pre-registered, but only two pre-registered speakers were present at the meeting. One additional audience member expressed an interest to provide public comment at this time.

The first parent expressed concern over bullying instances involving her daughter and the lack of apparent consequences as a result of the behavior.

The second parent, who spoke through an interpreter, also expressed concern over inaction over bullying, referencing the Acero Handbook and the need to better equip teachers to respond to these incidents.

The third parent expressed a concern involving an inappropriate comment made to his daughter. The parent further identified concerns with budget support provided to the schools and teachers and hoped that teachers can be supported in the classroom to create a climate conducive to work.

13. Executive Session

13.01 Discussion regarding Personnel Matter

Ms. Rojas moved that the Board convene into closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss matters involving personnel. Ms. De La Cruz took the roll call vote and, with eight Directors present, the Board entered closed session at 7:12 PM.

Present: Chairwoman Rojas, Vice Chairman Hewitt, Secretary Matias, Ms. Sisler, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Neier Beran, Mr. Harris, Ms. Yeager
Absent: Treasurer Yohanan

[closed session]

Ms. Rojas moved that the Acero Board reconvene into open session. Ms. De La Cruz took the roll call vote and, with eight Directors present, the Board reconvened into open session at 7:52 PM.

Present: Chairwoman Rojas, Vice Chairman Hewitt, Secretary Matias, Ms. Sisler, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Neier Beran, Mr. Harris, Ms. Yeager
Absent: Treasurer Yohanan

Ms. Sisler moved, and Ms. Neier Beran seconded, to approve the salary of the Managing Director of Student Achievement as discussed in Executive Session.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Motion carried.

14. Old/New Business

15. Adjournment

Chairwoman Rojas called for old or new business matters to discuss. There being none, Chairwoman Rojas adjourned the meeting of the Acero Board of Directors at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Matias
Board Secretary

Approved by the Acero Board of Directors on October 24, 2018.