MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
EWING MARION KAUFFMAN SCHOOL, INC.

March 30, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Ewing Marion Kauffman School, Inc., a Missouri nonprofit corporation exempt from federal taxation under Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3), was held at its headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri on March 30, 2020, pursuant to public notice provided at least 24 hours in advance.

Participating via Zoom technology such that all could hear and be heard and see and be seen were Aaron North, chair; Mayra Aguirre; Joe Allen; Kristin Bechard, treasurer; Tracy McFerrin; Gloria Jackson Leathers; and Maurice Watson.

Also present from the School were John Tyler, Secretary and General Counsel; Hannah Lofthus, Chief Executive Officer; and Tim Racer, Deputy General Counsel.

Present from the community was Robin Wahby from the School’s sponsor the Missouri Charter School Commission.

Mr. North chaired the meeting and Mr. Tyler served as secretary. Mr. North called the meeting to order at 8:32 am, welcomed those in attendance, reported all in attendance, and previewed the agenda.

Mr. North expressed the board’s appreciation for the update from Ms. Lofthus on the School’s transition to virtual learning, food distribution, and otherwise in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and local orders that businesses close and people stay at home.

Ms. Lofthus provided a further update on steps being taken and results of that work, including that 100% of high students have been active online and middle school students are receiving weekly work packets. She also expressed her appreciation to the board, Robin and the sponsor, the teachers and other staff, and the School’s students.

Ms. Lofthus explained the circumstances about having acquired and distributed Chromebooks to every high school. There is a need to acquire technology for middle school students to enhance the substance and efficiency of learning, especially for the remainder of the current school year. She described her work to acquire Chromebook inventory this week ASAP for the middle school, as long as the order was made today, for a purchase order in the amount of $217,200 with an additional amount of up to $32,800 for a total of up to $250,000.

Mr. Watson moved that the School’s leadership be authorized acquiring up to 800 Chromebooks and related accessories and services from Riverside Technologies, Inc. in an amount of up to $250,000.

Discussion followed about protocols and procedures re this vendor and contract, including that the School has used this vendor in the past with consistency and high quality, and there is an emergency situation exemption within the procurement policy to cover circumstances such as are currently the case. Discussion continued about the School’s history with this vendor.
Ms. Jackson Leathers seconded the motion.

After discussion and pursuant to a roll call vote of each board member, the board unanimously (North, Aguirre, Allen, Bechard, Jackson Leathers, McFerrin, Watson) authorized the School’s leadership to incur expenditures of up to $250,000 to cover acquisition of Chromebooks and related accessories and services from Riverside Technologies, Inc.

Community Forum

Ms. Wahby reported that the Commission is meeting with each charter school’s board during this pandemic. She was complimentary of the School’s leadership and team, including its work to meet non-academic needs such as food. She further complimented the board for its readiness for this type of situation including policies that have exigent, emergency exceptions. Ms. Wahby encouraged that the board and leadership consider how academic progress will be measured and assessed in the absence of normal testing.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 am.

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John Tyler, Secretary