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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, April 24, 2019
6:00 PM**

**Brighton Park Elementary School
4420 S. Fairfield Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60632**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

At 6:01 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, Secretary Matias, Mr. Baumert, Mr. Harris, Mr. Rodriguez
- Absent: Vice Chairman Hewitt, Treasurer Yohanan, Ms. Neier Beran, Ms. Yeager

With five members present, a quorum was established.

2. Review of Minutes

- Special Board Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2019**
- Audit, Compliance & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2019**
- Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2019**
- Academic Committee Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2019**
- Governance Committee Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2019**

Ms. Matias moved to approve the open session minutes from the February 27, 2019 Meeting of the Acero Board; the April 4, 2019 meeting of the Board’s Audit, Compliance and Finance Committee; the April 8, 2019 meeting of the Board’s Executive Committee; the April 8, 2019 meeting of the Board’s Academic Committee; and the April 16, 2019 meeting of the Board’s Governance Committee. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

- Ayes: 5
- Nays: 0
- Abstain: 0
- Absent: 4

Motion carried.

Ms. Matias next moved to approve closed session minutes from the April 8, 2019 Meeting of the Board's Executive Committee. Ms. Matias further moved to keep these minutes closed as the need for confidentiality exists due to the discussion of a personnel matter. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 4

Motion carried.

3. Chairwoman's Remarks

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

Ms. Rojas next described the historical community surrounding Brighton Park Elementary, which has long been identified as a hard working neighborhood and destination for immigrant populations. Ms. Rojas highlighted some of the achievements of Brighton Park, a SQRP Level 1 school serving more than 560 K-8 students.

Ms. Rojas next outlined the agenda for this evening's meeting and also reiterated the Board policy that individuals wishing to make public comment registered twenty four hours in advance of the meeting. Finally, Ms. Rojas introduced Brighton Park Principal Luke Corry.

4. Principal's Welcome

Principal Luke Corry welcomed everyone to Brighton Park and shared several initiatives that make Brighton Park a special place, including the goal that all students have access to eight curriculum enhancing opportunities at each grade level. Principal Corry highlighted several of these opportunities: financial enrichment opportunities through Junior Achievement; science related field trips through Mighty Acorns; and cultural dance instruction through Design Dance. Principal Corry further described health education, music and arts partnerships, as well as field trips to Adler Planetarium, Museum of Contemporary Art, Holocaust Museum, and the Ozark Natural Science Center. Principal Corry concluded his remarks by emphasizing experiences to take advantage of the world class city that the students live in.

5. Chief Executive Officer’s Report

Chief Executive Officer Richard Rodriguez thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening. CEO Rodriguez thanked Principal Corry and commended the school’s collaborations beyond the physical walls of the school. CEO Rodriguez next discussed the state of charter school funding, remarking that CPS suspended fourth quarter payments pending review. This amounts to withholding \$6 million in funding, approximately \$800 per student. CEO Rodriguez emphasized that Acero made its concerns clear at the CPS Board Meeting and will continue to remain engaged and focus on the best interests of Acero students, staff, parents, and community.

6. Chief Education Officer’s Report

Christine Diaz, Acero’s Chief Education Officer, provided a Quarter 3 update. Based upon Middle of Year data, Grades 2-8 Winter Math and Reading showed performance remaining the same or growing. The college readiness benchmarks at the high school level showed significant increases for 9th and 10th graders, while the 11th grade gains were not as significant – in part due to the shifting instructional practices resulting from the change from ACT to SAT. Ms. Diaz next reported on the Equity and Access, Instructional and Behavioral Frameworks, noting the input of all stakeholders through Team Dignity (social/emotional), Team Academics (academics), and Team Voice (ensuring all voices are captured.) Ms. Diaz highlighted network achievements, including Garcia High School’s annual trip to China and significant increases in student and teacher participation in the Five Essentials Survey. Ms. Diaz concluded her remarks by summarizing the work on the 2019-2020 school calendar, which resulted from parent input, staff surveys, and four two-hour meetings of the calendar committee.

7. Audit, Compliance and Finance Committee Report

Ms. Matias reported on the April 4, 2019 meeting of the Audit, Compliance and Finance Committee. The Committee heard from Acero’s Chief Financial Officer, Michael Bradley, regarding necessary revisions to expenditures and revenues in response to the new Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Charter Division of the Chicago Teacher’s Union. As a result, an amendment to the FY19 budget was necessary. Ms. Matias further reported that, subsequent to the Committee meeting, CPS has chosen to withhold \$6 million dollars in funding from Acero’s fourth quarter revenues, which required further revisions to Acero’s FY19 budget.

Ms. Matias moved, and Mr. Rodriguez seconded, a motion to approve the amended FY19 budget as presented.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 4

Motion carried.

8. Executive Committee Report

Ms. Rojas, Chair of the Executive Committee, reported on the April 8, 2019 meeting of the Committee. At this meeting, the Committee met in closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon returning to open session, the Committee approved an employment contract on behalf of the Board.

9. Academic Committee Report

Mr. Rodriguez reported on the April 8, 2019 meeting of the Academic Committee. Chief Education Officer Christine Diaz updated the Committee on the Chicago Public Schools Remediation Plan for Paz Elementary School, reporting that CPS praised Paz for its organization, leadership, and excellence throughout the process. Ms. Diaz also discussed the ongoing work to develop a behavioral framework, an instructional framework, and a stakeholder framework, with the goal of promoting consistency across the network. Ms. Diaz concluded her remarks to the Committee by sharing information regarding the special education audit conducted at Soto High School and outlined the process by which the 2019-2020 school calendar was created and finalized.

10. Governance Committee Report

Ms. Matias reported on the April 16, 2019 meeting of the Governance Committee. The Committee first received a presentation from Chief External Affairs Officer Helena Stangle regarding a proposed partnership between Unidos US and Acero Schools. In this partnership, Acero would become an affiliate of Unidos US. Ms. Stangle provided an overview of Unidos US, highlighted the benefits of becoming an affiliate, and explained the application process to become an affiliate. The Committee discussed the partnership and voted to recommend to the Acero Board that they approve the submission of an application to Unidos US to be recognized as an affiliate organization.

Ms. Matias moved, and Mr. Baumert seconded, to approve Board Resolution 1819-002, which follows the recommendations made by the Committee to approve the submission of an application to become an affiliate of Unidos US.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 4

Motion carried.

In approving Board Resolution 1819-002, the following actions have been taken:

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ACERO CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC. APPROVING BECOMING AN AFFILIATE OF UnidosUS

WHEREAS, Acero Schools, since 1998, has served as an urban, non-profit charter school network, educating and supporting 20,000 Chicago students, graduates and their families with a focus on innovation and best practice sharing.

WHEREAS, Acero Schools, as one of the largest Chicago-based public, tuition-free charter school networks, serves a high percentage of bilingual learners and takes a team-based approach to develop high performing schools, including their 12 elementary schools, two high schools and one K-12 school.

WHEREAS, Acero Schools is celebrating more than 20 years of service using proven educational models for social and emotional learning, personalized learning and data driven and differentiated instruction employing a customized approach for each individual Acero school to best meet the needs of its students.

WHEREAS, Acero Schools celebrates a student body of over 93 percent Latino/a students and advocates for the agency, equity and advancement of Acero's students, families and communities through not just high performing schools but dedicated parent engagement initiatives that include programming focused on supporting the whole child, families and the Archer Heights, Avondale, Brighton Park, Gage Park, Galewood, Humboldt Park, Little Village, Pilsen and Rogers Park communities Acero services.

WHEREAS, UnidosUS, formerly National Council of La Raza, is the largest Latino/a nonprofit advocacy organization in the United States using a unique combination of research,

advocacy, programming and a national network of nearly 300 community-based Affiliate organizations across the country to challenge the social, economic and political barriers that affect Latino/a communities in the United States.

WHEREAS, *UnidosUS offers a cohesive net of services and unique grant opportunities to those organizations that are granted Affiliate status.*

WHEREAS, *Acero Schools' Governance Committee met on April 16, 2019 and voted to approve a recommendation to the Acero Schools' Board of Directors that Acero Schools apply to become an Affiliate of UnidosUS.*

WHEREAS, *the Acero Schools' Board of Directors adopted the recommendation of the Acero Schools' Governance Committee on April 24, 2019 to apply as an Affiliate of UnidosUS.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that the Acero Board hereby approves the submission of an application to become an Affiliate of UnidosUS.*

Ms. Matias continued with her report on the Committee meeting's annual review of two Board approved policies, the Acero Conflict of Interest Policy and the Acero Code of Ethics. At the meeting, Acero's General Counsel/Chief Administrative Officer, Araceli De La Cruz, shared copies of the policies, noting the CPS-required revision that the Board of Directors execute annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements. No further revisions to the Conflict of Interest Policy were deemed necessary. Therefore, the Committee voted to recommend that the Acero Board approve the revisions to the Acero Conflict of Interest Policy and Annual Disclosure Form.

Ms. Matias moved, and Mr. Rodriguez seconded, a motion to approve the suggested revisions to the Acero Schools Conflict of Interest Policy and Annual Disclosure Form.

Ayes:	5
Nays:	0
Abstain:	0
Absent:	4

Motion carried.

Ms. Matias continued by stating that the Committee reviewed Acero's Code of Ethics Policy and determined that no revisions were necessary.

Finally, Ms. Matias reported that the Committee reviewed proposed training materials for Board Members regarding the duties and responsibilities of board members for not-for-profit organizations in Illinois. Ms. De La Cruz shared a Frequently Asked Questions document about Charter Schools and a video about the oversight role of charter school Board members. The Committee viewed parts of the videos and reviewed the printed materials, ultimately taking action to approve the dissemination of these materials to the full Board. Ms. Matias concluded here report by stating that Directors shall receive access to these materials in the near future.

11. Public Comment

Chairwoman Rojas opened the meeting to public comment. No speakers pre-registered, and no one from the audience expressed a desire to comment.

12. Old/New Business

13. 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 6:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Matias
Board Secretary

Approved by the Acero Board of Directors on June 26, 2019.