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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, October 24, 2018
6:00 PM**

**Carlos Fuentes Elementary School
2845 W. Barry Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60618**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

At 6:00 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, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Harris, Ms. Yeager (present via conference call)
- Absent: Treasurer Yohanan, Ms. Neier Beran

With five members initially present, a quorum was established.

1.01 Participation via Telephone

Chairwoman Rojas moved, and Mr. Hewitt 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, Secretary Matias, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Harris
- Nays: None
- Abstain: None
- Absent: Treasurer Yohanan, Ms. Neier Beran

Motion carried.

2. Review of Minutes

- 2.01 Board Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2018**
- 2.02 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2018**
- 2.03 Operations Committee Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2018**
- 2.04 Academic Committee Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2018**
- 2.05 Audit, Compliance & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2018**

Ms. Matias moved, and Mr. Rodriguez seconded, to approve open session minutes from the June 26, 2018 Meeting of the Acero Board, the August 8, 2018 Meeting of the Board's Executive Committee, the September 26, 2018 Meeting of the Board's Operations Committee, the October 17, 2018 Meeting of the Board's Academic Committee, and the October 19, 2018 Meeting of the Board's Audit, Compliance and Finance Committee.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 2

Motion carried.

Ms. Matias next moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, to approve: the closed session minutes from the June 26, 2018 Meeting of the Acero Board and to keep the minutes closed as the need for confidentiality exists due to the discussion of a personnel matter; the closed session minutes from the August 8, 2018 Meeting of the Board's Executive Committee and to keep the minutes closed as the need for confidentiality exists due to the discussion of a personnel matter; and, the closed session minutes from the September 26, 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: 2

Motion carried.

3. Chairwoman's Remarks

Chairwoman Rojas greeted all attendees and welcomed everyone to Fuentes. 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 Fuentes School, which was named in honor of Carlos Fuentes, a praised Mexican writer and diplomat. Ms. Rojas highlighted some of the accomplishments of Fuentes 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 Fuentes Principal Joanne Tanner.

4. Principal's Welcome

Principal Tanner welcomed everyone to Fuentes and provided an anecdote highlighting the importance of education. Ms. Tanner identified Fuentes' theme for this school year as harmony and illustrated four principles of everyday work going on at Fuentes: purposeful planning, personalized learning, a culture of learning, and advocacy. Finally, Ms. Tanner highlighted the expanded bilingual program, the experience of diverse learners, the creation of spaces conducive to learning and the acknowledgement of every voice in the school.

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer Richard Rodriguez welcomed everyone to the meeting. CEO Rodriguez applauded the work being done at Fuentes, including the recent national recognition of a Fuentes' teacher's viral fundraising story. CEO Rodriguez next addressed the ongoing contract negotiations, identified the principles guiding Acero's negotiation, and the challenges and opportunities presented during this time. CEO Rodriguez concluded his remarks by expressing hope to continue the momentum of working together for Acero, its staff and the community of kids it serves.

6. Chief Education Officer's Report

Christine Diaz, Acero's Chief Education Officer, expressed excitement at joining the Acero family. Ms. Diaz outlined her vision for the schools and highlighted recent positive news from several Acero schools. Ms. Diaz concluded her remarks by outlining her priorities for Acero, including every school at a level 1 or 1+ by the end of the 2019-2020 school year, clear roles and responsibilities, filling vacancies, maximizing student outcomes, and working together as one team.

7. Executive Committee Report

Ms. Rojas, Chair of the Executive Committee, reported on the August 8, 2018 meeting of the Committee. At this meeting, the Committee considered and approved a one-year base term contract for substitute teacher services with Parallel Employment Group. The Committee also went into closed session to discuss a personnel matter and, upon returning to open session, approved the salary of the Chief Education Officer.

8. Operations Committee Report

Mr. Hewitt, Chair of the Governance Committee, reported on the September 26, 2018 meeting of the Committee. In closed session, the Committee received an update on the physical security assessment conducted by external consultants. Upon returning to open session, the Committee discussed future initiatives identified as part of a recent comprehensive assessment of Acero's Information Technology department, including a device life cycle plan, hiring additional personnel, and enhancing the security camera program. Finally, the Committee learned that future capital plans will be designed to support key findings from recent IT, security, and facilities assessments.

9. Academic Committee Report

Ms. Yeager reported on several matters discussed at the October 17, 2018 meeting of the Academic Committee. Acero’s new Chief Education Officer introduced herself to the Committee. Also at the meeting, Public Consulting Group summarized an assessment of the efficacy of Acero’s staffing and resource allocation structures for students receiving special education related services and support.

10. Audit, Compliance and Finance Committee Report

Mr. Hewitt reported on the October 19, 2018 meeting of the Audit, Compliance and Finance Committee, which heard from auditors from Clifton Larson Allen regarding the Annual Audit for the year ending June 30, 2019. Acero received the highest opinion as there were no material weaknesses found, no repeated findings, and only one deficiency noted. Overall the audit report was favorable and indicative of solid accounting and management practices. Also at the meeting, Mr. Michael Bradley, Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on the FY19 budget, including new contingency considerations, expenses, revenues, and areas of focus.

10.01 Consideration of Recommendation to Approve Acero’s FY18 Audit

Mr. Hewitt moved, and Ms. Matias seconded, to approve the FY18 Audit.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 2

Motion carried.

11. Public Comment

Chairwoman Rojas opened the meeting to public comment. Six speakers pre-registered, but only five pre-registered speakers were present at the meeting.

The first speaker, a kindergarten teacher at Marquez, expressed concern over the time and her own money spent supporting her students and classroom and asked for a comparable salary, work day and work year to better service students.

The second speaker, the Chair of the Charter Division of CTU, highlighted the shortfalls of Acero’s budget and demanded equal pay for equal work, as well as special education students meeting their minutes.

The third speaker, a mathematics teacher at Soto, expressed concern that teachers’ years of experience is not appreciated by Acero, specifically referencing the need for tailored observations, culturally relevant curriculum and resources aligned to that curriculum.

The fourth speaker, an art teacher at Marquez, criticized growing class sizes, the lack of new initiatives, and the prioritization of money over education.

The fifth speaker, a special education apprentice at Cruz, focused on Acero as schools and not as a business, identifying concerns with staffing issues, special education compliance, low teacher retention rates, and a lack of equity in the contract.

12. Executive Session

12.01 Personnel Matter

12.02 Update on Union Negotiations

Ms. Rojas moved that the Board convene into closed session pursuant to Sections 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(2) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss matters involving personnel and ongoing collective bargaining agreement negotiations with the union. Ms. De La Cruz took the roll call vote and, with six Directors present, the Board entered closed session at 6:56 PM.

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

[closed session]

Ms. Rojas moved that the Acero Board reconvene into open session. Ms. De La Cruz took the roll call vote and, with six Directors present, the Board reconvened into open session at 8:06 PM.

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

Ms. Rojas moved, and Mr. Hewitt seconded, to approve the salary of the Managing Director of Student Achievement as discussed in Executive Session.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 2

Motion carried.

13. Old/New Business

14. 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 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Matias
Board Secretary

Approved by the Acero Board of Directors on February 27, 2019.