



The Hope Center for Autism, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 16, 2017; 5:00 PM

1695 SE Indian Street, Stuart, FL 34997

Board Members Present: Jim Applegate, Michele Drake, Nina Ferraro, George Koester, Susan Maxwell, Linda Peirce

Board Member Absent: Mark Murray

Others Present: Executive Director Joanne Sweazey, Associate Director Shannon Kiess

Meeting called to order at 5:26 PM by President, Jim Applegate

Approval of agenda / additions or deletions – approved as emailed and provided at meeting

Approval of minutes from last meeting – approved as emailed and provided at meeting

Proceedings:

Braille Place Parcels: Jim Applegate reported on the following recent updates regarding these parcels. The environmental audit has been completed. Walk-through of the site took place on August 14. An expert was hired after a gopher tortoise hole was found. Closing is expected on September 26. A deposit has been placed in escrow on the property. Lucido and Associates have been retained to review the site plan. An architect will not be hired until after closing of the property. The plan will be for 20,000 square feet. Jim will be meeting with planning staff within the next two weeks. George Koester made a motion to authorize the President of the Board a specific budget for planning and due diligence. This was seconded and approved. The current plan is to build a 10,000 square-foot structure on one of the two empty parcels. When ready, an additional 10,000 square foot structure will be built on the additional parcel.

Executive Director's Report: Joanne Sweazey reported that two budgets have been created and were presented to the Board. The first budget being the "Budget without Land Lease and External Relations" and second budget being the "Budget with New School and Land" adjusting to allow funding for expenditures. Michele Drake discussed movement of monies into the various bank accounts so that the funds from events and fundraising is designated appropriately as needed. She stressed the need for transparency when fundraising so that it is clear as to where the raised funds are going. A motion was made to allocate money to the budget for fundraising through Ogden and Associates to fund multiple events. Motion was seconded and approved.

Bank Signers: Joanne has requested an update to remove Sherry Bernal, past board member, and Cheryl Hendrix, past board member, from the bank accounts. Joanne requested that Michele Drake and Susan Maxwell replace these signers on the existing bank accounts.

Hope Academy Charter: Regarding charter status for *The Hope Academy*, Joanne has applied for legal status of the name. As grades three and up are added, *The Hope Academy* will be the second charter and then eligible for the state start-up grant.

Status of Enrollment and Staff: Existing enrollment is 37 students with three more to come and availability for one more. Three of the students are now riding a bus. A Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) has been hired responsible for Behavior Plans and data. Joanne will be meeting with staff this week to ensure that academic goals are being met.

Information Items: There were no information items discussed.

Action Items: There were no action items discussed.

New Business: The Board welcomed Nina Ferraro as a new member.

Old Business: There was no old business.



Public Comment: There was no public comment.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Peirce