



**Governance Board Special Meeting
Online via Zoom
8.11.20**

Meeting called to order

The meeting was held via Zoom online teleconference. Board Chair James Rossman called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Present were Board Members James Rossman, James Ballard, Karl Langefeld, Beth McIntyre, and Douglas Amoroso were present. Staff members Elisabeth Kraft, Heather Rodriguez, Loretta Gallo-Lopez and Josephine Isenbergh were present. A quorum was met.

Public Comment

No members of public present; no public comment.

Old Business

- No old business.

Action Items

- Reopening plan: Review of the Hillsborough County Public Schools decision to move to e-learning for the first four weeks of the school year, which has been vetoed by the State of Florida. As a charter school, Focus Academy has a choice of re-opening with the original plan or to follow the school district's plan to move to e-learning for the first month with the risk of losing partial funding (up to 25%) from the state.
- Charter schools do not have clarity regarding what will happen if they do not open
- Board discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of the decision. The Board is awaiting advice from the school legal counsel.
- Mr. Rossman advocated for sending a letter from legal counsel stating that opening is contingent upon 100% funding.
- Discussion of the parent point of view with parents having to switch to e-learning after preparing for in-person instruction.
- Board members discussed that compliance with District order should be contingent upon full funding from the state.
- Discussion regarding the difficulties of switching between e-learning and in-person instruction
- Mr. Langefeld wondered if there are services that would not be available if Focus Academy reopens without the District being open, including school lunches.
- Ms. Sotelo and Mr. Amoroso advocated for opening the school and letting parents decide.
- Ms. McIntyre mentioned that it is a difficult decision as a parent.
- Mr. Langefeld mentioned that summer camps have been diligent with their infection control and protocols and have been successful in keeping COVID free.
- Mr. Rossman asked school leadership to discuss options with legal counsel and come back to the Board with a firm position on moving forward with a re-opening plan.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Rossman moved, Mr. Amoroso seconded motion to adjourn. Meeting passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Next meeting: August 17, 2020

Minutes taken and prepared by Heather Rodriguez, approved by Board vote and confirmed by signature below.

JAMES M. ROSSMAN

Chair

Print Name

Title

James M. Rossman

8/17/20

Signature

Date
