



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 19, 2014  
New Beginnings High School (Conference Room) - 2:00 PM

**Board Members Present:** Chair Dana Moore, Seretha Tinsley, Sam Killebrew

**Staff Present:** Principal Ashlee Wright, Tiara Doyle

**Others Present:** George Miarecki, Jody Cameron

Ashlee Wright, Principal

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm

#### **II. IDEA 13-14 FUNDS**

Provided in your packet is a notice that we have received from district stating that the district did not receive their IDEA funds for the 13-14 school year. IDEA is a supplemental cabinet that we receive from the district. Since the district loss the IDEA grant means that we loss the grant. We are going to receive the IDEA funds for the 14-15 school year and that notification is around \$69,000.

Sam Killebrew: Did that cost us any money?

Yes, typically it would initially come out of the operating funds and then we would get reimburse. But due to the district losing the grant there was no reimbursement.

#### **III. Title I Submission**

Title I is a supplemental fund as well that we receive from the district. Our allocation are extremely low in comparable to most schools. We get around \$21,000 and we use that to run our summer school program. It is also a supplemental fund which is reimbursable from the district. This year we set up our documentation like we set up our documentation every year. We did not receive notice from the district that they have not received our documentation until September 11 which is what this letter was dated. They are stating that since they did not receive documentation, they are not going to reimburse our \$21,000. Mr. Miarecki and I have been working on the issue by going back and forth with the district in receiving our title I dollars. I am now preparing myself to go be forth the superintendent asking for our title I dollars because the district has received the \$21,000. Since we have sent the documentation through the courier, there is no proof that is was sent because the courier does not give receipt or something to show that it was sent.

Sam Killebrew: When we send things through the courier, is there a way that we can document something through email?

We can send them an email stating that we sent them something through the courier.

Sam Killebrew: At the end of the email, we can request to please notify upon receipt.

#### **IV. FTE Update**

We have our highest FTE ever this school year. Our first year, FTE was 330 students. In our second year it was 317 students and this year we have 364 students. We are currently up to 394 students.

Sam Killebrew: We should document as to what schools are these students coming from and reason after the second FTE time frame. This would give us the opportunity to the district to show what is happening.

By having student increase may result in hiring additional staff. Because our numbers are where they are, we may need more units which means more teachers based on class size.

### **PA System**

We need something where we can page students out the classrooms. We are currently using telephones but there is a challenge with students in the hall way or if student are doing activities in the classroom the volume on the telephone is not loud enough. We have received some quotes from companies. We would like a PA system that also does a bell system for students to change classes. We reached out to the district who also gave us a quote.

### **Bus repairs- purchase of new bus**

We have put about \$3500 towards our busses far as repairs. We also have child who lives in Kissimmee who wants to attend to New Beginnings and because of the Kenny-Veto act we have to provide transportation.

Sam Killebrew: Is that federal?

Yes, it is federal. So we have to provide this student transportation.

### **Tuition Reimbursement**

I wanted to talk about our tuition reimbursement policy. Last year, we did a \$5,000 reimbursement policy for employees that decided to attend school as long as stayed with New Beginnings within a year. We only had one staff member who took advantage but I wanted to recommend to the board to bring reimbursement amount down to \$2,000 just in case we have multiple staff members who decide to pursue the tuition reimbursement policy.

### **Transportation Audit Issues**

I wanted to make the board aware of that I have received notification from the Polk County school district stating that they have had an audit done on transportation the year previous. In that audit that was done on transportation, the state of Florida came in and said that the Polk County school board were not in compliance. New Beginnings would receive the biggest penalty as far as noncompliance for transportation. When we are talking about transportation, we are talking about bus passes only. I sent a letter to Mr. Milhourn to resolve the issue. The issue has been resolved and we are in compliance from what the district has told us. For our current FTE, we have attended to training and practiced exactly of what was learned.

### **Warranty Software**

Next is our 1 year warranty for our cisco equipment such as our phones, cameras outside and server room. This come before the board annually for board approval due cost over \$5,000.

### **Staff member car accident**

We did have staff member in a car accident during FTE. There were no students in the vehicle. She was in her own personal vehicle. She is still here and working. She was at fault. New Beginnings was not liable.

### **NBHS 2015 Graduation**

Please place the dates on your calendar. Our senior dinner will be held Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 5:00pm and our 2015 commencement exercise will be held on Friday, June 12, 2015 located at First Presbyterian Church of Haines City at 6:00pm. Commencement speaker will be Mr. Darrell Parks from Parks and Crump out of Tallahassee, Fl.

### **Christmas Party**

We would like to have a Christmas party for our staff. We are asking the board to approve a budget for \$3,000 for the Christmas party.

Sam Killbrew: After you get whatever you get donated, Can you please provide me a list of what you need beyond what you have received from donation.

Jody Cameron: I can email you a list

### **Charter Renewal**

Jody Cameron previously worked with All Children’s Academy as an executive director over their foundation. Jody Cameron has been a great asset to us. She is contracted with us and does writing pieces as well as research pieces. Jody and I have been working on a data piece where we survey students and why they came to New Beginnings. Contrary in belief in most people of why students come to new beginnings is attendance not behavior. A large part of the charter renewal is to show how we progressed. So our staff would provide Jody on a monthly basis a snap shot of what is going on with our students.

Jody Cameron: We provided student surveys that ask specific questions such as “what is it that make you want to come to New Beginnings every day?” Some of the students said there are great teachers here others stated that teachers would come get them if they needed a ride. We also asked “what is one thing the school can improve of?” and the most popular answer is better school lunch and more extra curriculum activities. Reason why we collected data is because the school is up for charter renewal. We have had a 5 year contract and starting next year will need to renew. This year they have approved other schools for a 10 year renewal. The goal is to shoot for 15 year contract but chances are we renew a 10 year. I provided a document that came right from the school board of what they used last year as to what their renewal is. It breaks down each section of what we have to answer in that document and tells us what we are looking. Some of it is student progression and student data, etc. A lawyer will have to be involved during negotiation because once the renewal is accepted it will then go to charter contract phase.

### **Property Lease Update**

Our property lease will be up also going in to year five. The board will need to start thinking whether we want to renew our lease or purchasing our own building. Some our service’s has changed since Baycare have taken over. There are longer security services along with cafeteria services. Our maintenance service’s has changed also. By the end of the year we would have paid off our build out. We have also been receiving our capital outlay.

### **VI. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 pm

### **MINUTES CERTIFICATION**

Approved by the New Beginnings High School Board of Directors.

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Dana Moore, President

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Date