

# ENTHEOS ACADEMY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## FEBRUARY 25, 2016

### I. Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Jaren Gibson, Wes Furgason, Rod Eichelberger, Xazmin Prows, Alisha Cartier, Nate Pilcher.
- b. Board Members Not Present: Kathy Larrabee.
- c. Also Present: Eric Robins, Mat Edvik, Sue Talmadge, Dina Wecker, Deb Ivie, Jason Bennion, Adrienne Olsen, Lilly Lublin, Laura Stewart, David Wright, Monty Hardy, Jana Helsten, Brett Helsten, Carly Coles, Teresa McEntire, Matthew Love, Sabila Bacon, Kennedy Hatch, Ambria Prows
- d. Time: 6:07 PM

### II. Welcome

- a. Xazmin Prows asked the board to reflect on and remember the important things that Entheos does for its students. She shared experiences and thoughts from several Entheos alumni highlighting the positive effect Entheos has had on their lives.

### III. Pledge of Allegiance and Mission Statement

### IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of December 2015 and January 2016 minutes postponed to March.

### V. Calendar of Events

- a. Board received via email calendar of important events.

### VI. Informational Items

- a. Public Comment
  - i. Kennedy Hatch, Sabila Bacon – Entheos Kearns Students – Proposed the addition of juices to the Entheos menu and the placement of picnic tables outside so the students can eat outdoors during the spring and summer months. There was also a proposal to have the uniform policy amended to allow for beanie style hats, colored socks, black pants and a variety of colored polo shirts.
  - ii. Dina Wecker – Entheos Kearns Teacher – Requested that the board gather for a yearbook picture before the end of the evening.
  - iii. Lilly Lublin – Entheos Magna Teacher – Expressed concern about looping
  - iv. Jason Bennion – Entheos Magna Teacher – Feels that looping should be put on hold for a couple of years to allow the teachers to be able to build on the curriculum they have already created. He also wanted the board to know that he, and the other teachers at the Magna campus are excited about the turnaround process and view it as a chance to grow and get better rather than as a negative.
  - v. David Wright – Entheos Magna Teacher – Thanked the board for the opportunity he has had to teach at Entheos. Said he is prepared to loop next year, but asked for clarification on why the board members support grade looping. Concerns with looping.

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- b. Response to Public Comment
  - i. Jaren Gibson - The issue of grade looping would be discussed in depth during the action item portion of the meeting.
- c. Kearns: Director's Report - Eric Robins
  - i. Full report provided in Board packet via email.
  - ii. Enrollment – 2016-2017 enrollment #'s – 489 on waitlist, 466 returning students enrolled for 16/17. Currently only 20 positions available for 2016-2017 school year excluding kindergarten and new 1<sup>st</sup> grade class. Year to year student retention is better than it has ever been.
  - iii. Jana Helsten – Gave update on plans for the Entheos Kearns 10 year anniversary celebration to be held May 20th. Celebration will include an assembly, carnival and BBQ.
  - iv. Jana Helsten – Town Hall meeting will be held March 17<sup>th</sup>. Will be “A Day in the Life of Entheos” event.
  - v. Staff Recognition:  
Eric expressed appreciation for Mark Gardner. Mark has moved into the lead position in the SpEd department this year. Due to illness in the department, he was left carry a majority of the SpEd work load for about a month. He is always willing to step up and help out where needed.
  - vi. Book Fair – March 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Magna: Director's Report – Eric Robins (Jesse Meeks officially excused, in Washington, D.C. for training)
  - i. Full report provided in Board packet via email.
  - ii. Staff Recognition:  
Jason Bennion was appreciated. Jason is the PLC Lead and Safety Coordinator. Jason is a valued person on the leadership team and willingly dives deep to make sure the instruction in PLC is high quality and that there is follow through.
- e. Budget Report
  - i. Rod Eichelberger and Monty Hardy – Red Apple Finance gave an update on the Restricted Bond accounts. Board will review Bond accounts monthly.
    - 1. Reserve Fund: \$1,078,575.00
    - 2. Repairs Fund: \$64,019.00
    - 3. Expense Fund: \$5,536.00
    - 4. Debt Service Fund: \$361,045.00
    - 5. Construction Fund: \$4060.08 ( To be dissolved and moved to Debt Service Account)
  - ii. Budget Summary - Monty Hardy, Red Apple Finance

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1. Federal Funds appear low because UCCA funds have not yet been received.
2. Cash on hand is currently just over 90 days, would like work towards it being 100.
3. Average Daily Membership (ADM) starts next year. It is anticipated that this will eventually be a benefit to Entheos, but it is important to watch the enrollment throughout the year as opposed to just the October 1 enrollment.
4. Recent correspondence between Nuveen (bond holder) and Red Apple has brought up concerns with regards to interest on the bond not being broke out in the audit. Monty stated that “this is an auditor’s choice”, not a requirement. The numbers are being provided to the bond holder by Red Apple. Auditing services have been provided by Christensen and Lambrose for the last two years.
5. SB 38, which will provide an additional \$250 per student, looks like it will pass. This will provide approximately \$200,000.00 in additional funding for or Entheos.

### **VII. Discussion Items**

- a. Data Calendar: DIBELS Review – Mat Edvik
  - i. Data was provided in Board packet via email.
  - ii. DIBELS Benchmark scores for the Kearns and Magna campuses were presented.
  - iii. Data included historical trends in DIBELS scores for the Kindergarten thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grades for the previous 3 school years.
  - iv. Progress monitoring will continue for all grades.
  - v. Various strategies to increase parental involvement and support for reading were discussed.
- b. Repair Fund – Rod Eichelberger
  - i. Repair fund is required to be at \$100,000. Each campus currently contributes \$833.00 monthly towards bringing the repair fund to the required balance. The current balance of the repair fund is approximately \$65,000. Rod proposed that reserve fund monies be used to bring the repair fund up to the required \$100,000 balance, which would then allow each school to utilize the \$833.00 monthly repair fund deposit for school expenditures.

### **VIII. Actionable Items**

- a. Repair Funds
  - i. Eliminate the monthly deposit into the repair fund and use the reserve funds to bring the repair fund up to \$100,000. Allow each school to utilize the \$833.00 monthly deposit for school expenditures.

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- ii. **Action** – Rod motions to authorize Red Apple to bring the repair fund up to \$100,000 out of the reserve funds. Xazmin seconds. Passes unanimously. 6-0

- 1. Time: 8:38 PM

- b. Looping

- i. After examining the data and receiving input from staff it was proposed by Eric Robins that grade looping be frozen indefinitely at the Magna campus.
  - 1. In light of the turnaround program, the need to allow the teachers at the Magna campus to be able to focus on building their curriculum and become “experts” in their grade level content was recognized.

- ii. **Action** – Alisha motioned to freeze looping at the Magna campus indefinitely. Xazmin seconds.

- iii. **Amendment** – Nate motioned to *suspend* looping at the Magna campus until the school exits the turnaround program. To be revisited when the turnaround is complete. Rod seconds. Amendment passes unanimously. 6-0

- 1. Time: 9:09 PM

- iv. After examining the data and receiving input staff, Eric Robins proposed that the 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade looping program be discontinued. The 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade loop would be retained.

- 1. Looping was felt to be more beneficial for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades due the stability that it provides for the younger students.
- 2. The 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade loop was seen as having increased challenges due to the complexity of the curriculum.
- 3. Xazmin Prows expressed concerns that the looping program was an important piece of the initial vision for Entheos. She wondered what research or situations had changed since the inception of Entheos that would justify discontinuing looping.
- 4. Eric Robins stated that the standards had changed dramatically in the last 6 years. Dina Wecker shared a portion of a 2015 research article that found that looping is beneficial for students in the younger grades for behavior purposes but the benefits do not extend to upper grades or test scores.

- v. **Action** – Rod motions that we discontinue looping in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades at the Kearns campus. Alisha seconds.

- vi. **Amendment** – Xazmin motions that we discontinue looping in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades, looping would be retained for the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade crews. Amendment did not receive a second.

- vii. Original motion made by Rod Eichelberger to discontinue looping in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades at the Kearns campus passes unanimously 6-0.

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1. Time: 9:15 PM

c. State Land Trust

- i. **Action** – Rod motioned to move the State Land Trust actionable item to the March board meeting. Nate seconds. Passes unanimously. 6-0

1. Time: 9:17

d. Turnaround Plan – Eric Robins

- i. The Magna School Improvement Plan, developed by Education Direction, was presented to the Board for review and approval before being submitted to the State. An in-depth discussion ensued.

1. The need for alignment with EL Core Practices was a concern.
2. Concerns were voiced over the “home visit” aspects of the plan. The Board would like clarification on the specifics of the home visits before they begin.
3. The expectation and need for teacher collaboration/participation was heavily stressed.
4. The Board acknowledged the need for an enhanced Board presence and support at the Magna campus.
5. Verbage about “staying true to the charter” will be added.

- ii. **Action** – Rod motioned to approve the Magna School Improvement Plan. Alisha seconds. Passes unanimously. 6-0

1. Time: 10:50

e. Audit Committee Formation – Rod Eichelberger

- i. The need to form an audit committee was presented. The audit committee would perform internal school audits as needed.

- ii. **Action** – Wes motioned that an Audit Committee be formed. The committee will consist of Nate Pilcher, Xazmin Prows and Rod Eichelberger. Rod seconds. Passes Unanimously 6-0

1. Time: 10:58 PM

### IX. Adjourn

- a. **Action** – Rod motions to adjourn. Xazmin seconds. Passes unanimously. 6-0

- i. Time: 10:59 PM