

## Meeting of the Board of Directors August 11th, 2015

**Meeting Location:** Academy of Career Exploration, 155 Harrison Street, Providence, RI 02907  
**Date & Time:** August 11th, 2015, 4:30 pm  
**Directors Present:** Jane Nugent, Kathy Fisher, Alan Neville Phil Zarlengo, Marion Hague, Kerry Altman, Michael Jarrett  
**Others Present:** Tim Groves, League of Charter Schools, Mario Cirillo, Head of School, Randy Dittmar and Roger Ray, Dittmar, McNeil, & Ferrolito, LLC, Matthew Plain and Alex Chiulli, Barton Gilman LLP, Luke Driver, Curriculum and CTE Director.  
**Directors Absent:** Denise DeBarros, Carmen Ferguson, Roberto Garcia, Ela Silva, Donna Paine  
**Presiding Officer:** Jane Nugent

### I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

Board Chair Jane Nugent called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm

### II. Roll Call

### III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### IV. Chair's Opening Remarks

Ms. Nugent asked all to introduce themselves. She then introduced guest, Timothy Groves, newly appointed Executive Director of the League of Charter Schools who would be making remarks concerning the introduction of RI Legislative recent bills concerning funding formulas of charter schools and other areas of concern.

### Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Zarlengo moved and Mr. Jarrett seconded the approval of the Tuesday, July 14, meeting minutes. The motion passed by unanimous vote of all members present.

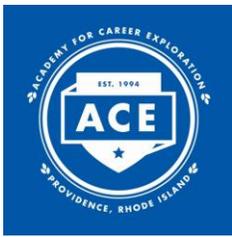
### V. Update from the League of Charter Schools

Mr. Groves stressed that advocacy is his primary task. His other key initiative is to be a convener, enhancing collaboration, organizing monthly meetings for specific types of managers at RI charter schools, and encouraging/facilitating the innovation and achievement levels that charter schools are expected to realize and model for systemic replication in traditional public schools.

In his role as an advocate, he will bring specific issues to RIDE and PPSD to pressure these organizations to provide financial data for the post legislative session. An extended discussion of questions and recommendations ensued.

### VI. Discussion/Vote on Budget for SY 2015-16

Randy Dittmar reviewed the ACE budget of SY 2015-16. This was a discussion of issues pertaining to the budget. Specifically, Randy addressed State of RI aid, noting an uptick of 10% given



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Governor Raimondos' successful recommendation of 10% over the last fiscal year. Local aid is reactive to the number of students enrolled. Currently, ACE has 214 students enrolled for the start of the school year.

The Perkins Grant awarded to ACE for the current school year is \$25,830, versus the \$104k requested. Mario Cirillo is aggressively pursuing restoration of these funds. Matt Plain noted that this grant is unlikely to be addressed by the PPSD before the start of the school year. He recommended a series of actions to include the filing of a claim, a request for a hearing, and a suit in Superior Court. All the above actions will provide discovery information. Also, such actions sometimes lead to solution of the case.

Randy further indicated that Title I. Funding depends on ACE's recognition as an LEA. Mr. Plain recommended that this issue be taken up at the September 2015 Board Meeting in Executive Session. The third quarter Medicaid Report was \$52k, the highest in two years. This aligns with projected of \$160,000 budgeted for the school year.

Finally, Randy reported that we don't yet know the salary levels of newly hired teachers. There could be as much as a \$21k – \$30k increase in budgeted expenses with a complimentary reduction in net assets depending on salary levels of new hires. We will review figures at September meeting.

### **VII. Strategic Plan - Discussion of Draft Document**

Final approval of the Strategic Plan for SY 15/16 through SY 17/18 was postponed to the September Board Meeting due to lack of time. Ms. Nugent asked board members to send recommendations and comments in advance of this meeting as we will finalize the plan in September.

### **VIII. Head of School Report**

#### **a. Faculty and Staff for 15-16**

Dr. Mario Cirillo, Head of School, explained that the whole complement of staff and faculty were in place, for the first time in several years. He reported that he feels strongly about the quality and collaboration evidenced by staff.

#### **b. CTE Update**

Mr. Luke Driver presented a CTE Update. Please refer to addendum to these minutes. An evaluator will assess the pilot phase that begins in SY 2015-2016 with the intention to move to full implementation before SY 2016-2017. Many positive initiatives were presented.



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**IX. Discussion/Vote Regarding Assistant Head of School and Director of Operations End of Year Reviews**

**Motion to convene Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) – discussions of the job performance/evaluation of a person/persons; discussion of Assistant Head of School and Director of Operations End of Year Reviews.**

**This was postponed until the September meeting.**

**X. Succession Plan for Board**

Mr. Alan Neville reported on actions taken to date by him and Ms. Nugent. Jeanne Devlin, CFO of Crossroads RI and CFO of the year has been in discussions and has agreed to join the Board. Nikki Nichtern, will meet next week with Mr. Neville and Ms. Nugent. Board members were strongly recommended to bring strong candidates forward.

**XI. Other/New Business**

None brought forward.

**XII. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was offered by Marion Hague and seconded by Kathy Fisher. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

***Note that our next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8th, at 4:30PM***

Documents to Accompany Board Minutes:

- Board Meeting Agenda
- Minutes from the July 2015 Board Meeting
- ACE Employee List with name, subject, and accompanying costs.
- Budget with Estimated Figures for 2015 dated 8/11/2015
- Interoffice Memorandum to Dr. Mario Cirillo from Luke Driver
- Strategic Plan for ACE Board of Directors — Final Draft for Discussion – August, 2015
- ACE Floor Plan
- ACE Organizational Chart 2015-2016