

**DEMOCRACY PREPSM BLACKSTONE VALLEY,
A RHODE ISLAND MAYORAL ACADEMYSM**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

9 a.m., June 18, 2010

Cumberland Town Hall

45 Broad Street, Cumberland

Mayor McKee called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were:

Mayor Daniel J. McKee (Chair)
Administrator T. Joseph Almond
Mayor Charles D. Moreau

Also present were Michael Magee, Daniel C. Waugh, Drew Allsopp, Chiu Heng, Alan Kopp and Marcia Green.

Minutes of April 5, 2010

Mr. Moreau (seconded by Mr. Almond) moved to approve the minutes of April 5, 2010. AYE: McKee, Almond, Moreau. NAY: None.

Chair's Report

The Chair had no report.

Report from Head of School

Mr. Andrew reported for Mr. Chiappetta. The Developmental Reading Assessment shows that the average kindergartener is now reading at an end-of-first-grade level. Student attendance is 94.7%, which is below the 97% attendance target. Staff is working to identify ways to improve the attendance rate.

A survey has been conducted that indicates that 96% of parents strongly agree the school has high expectations for children, 86% feel their children are learning what they need to know to succeed in later grades or after graduation, 87% are very satisfied with the quality of teaching, 91% with the education children have received, and 71% with the assistance provided for homework.

Treasurer's Report

The report from the Treasurer was deferred to the next meeting.

Resignation of Mr. Chiappetta as Executive Director

Mr. Waugh reported that Mr. Chiappetta had resigned as Executive Director of the corporation. Mr. Waugh and Mr. Magee reminded the board that Mr. Chiappetta had been hired as Head of School, and in the hurry of assembling the school and the corporation had also been put into the Executive Director role as a matter of convenience. He had on several occasions expressed discomfort regarding what he perceived as the potentially conflicting academic and corporate roles. In consultation with Rhode Island Mayoral Academies, it had been determined that a better model would be to put Rhode Island Mayoral Academies' Director of School Support and Accountability into the Executive Director role. Mr. Chiappetta accordingly submitted his resignation as a step toward accomplishing this new model. He would remain as Head of School with all of the authority, responsibility, compensation, and benefits of that position as set forth in his letter of employment. The resignation would be effective on the election of a successor as Executive Director.

Election of officers

The following slate was nominated:

Executive Director	Drew Allsopp
Secretary	Daniel Waugh
Treasurer	Michael Magee

Mr. Moreau (seconded by Mr. Almond) moved that the slate be elected. AYE: McKee, Almond, Moreau. NAY: None.

Lease of St. Patrick's School facility

At the Chair's request, Mr. Waugh presented the resolution to approve the lease of the St. Patrick's School facility. The facility has been acquired by Rhode Island Mayoral Academies for the benefit of Rhode Island Mayoral Academy Blackstone Valley and is currently being refurbished and brought up to the necessary standards as prescribed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. It is anticipated that the acquisition and refurbishing will be financed largely by Raza Development Foundation. RAZA Development Foundation, however, is unwilling to proceed without a commitment from the school that it will occupy and use the facility.

The lease itself provides for rent equal to 5% of the School's operating budget. The school will also be responsible for its own occupancy costs such as utilities and ordinary maintenance. The lease also provides that the corporation may buy the facility at any time during the lease term, which event is expected to occur when the project is ready for take-out financing to be provided through the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation.

Mr. Moreau (seconded by Mr. Almond) moved to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the corporation be, and it hereby is, authorized to lease the St. Patrick's school facility on Broad Street in the Town of Cumberland from the Rhode Island Mayoral AcademiesSM.

That the Executive Director be, and he hereby is, authorized to execute and deliver the Lease Agreement therefor in substantially the form presented to the meeting, with such modifications thereto as he may find necessary or appropriate.

That the Executive Director be, and he hereby is, authorized to execute and deliver such other documents and take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the foregoing resolutions.

That this Resolution is an affirmative action of the Rhode Island Mayoral AcademySM Blackstone Valley of the corporation's intent to request the issuance of tax-exempt bonds the proceeds of which will be used to purchase the St. Patrick's School facility including the renovation thereof (the "Project"). This Resolution constitutes the corporation's declaration of official intent, pursuant to Treasury Regulation § 1.150-2, to reimburse not to exceed Four Million and 00/100 Dollars (\$4,000,000) for capital expenditures (whether incurred or paid by the corporation or by Rhode Island Mayoral AcademiesSM) for the Project paid on or after the date which is sixty (60) days prior to the date of this Resolution but prior to the issuance of the tax-exempt obligations, or otherwise as permitted by such regulation. Such Amounts to be reimbursed shall be reimbursed not later than eighteen months after (a) the date on which the expenditure is paid or (b) the date the Project are placed in service or abandoned, but in no event more than three (3) years after the date the expenditure is paid. Pending the issuance of tax-exempt obligations, the expenditures may be reimbursed from the proceeds of taxable obligations to be refunded by the tax-exempt obligations.

A question arose whether the members of the board were adequately protected by liability insurance. Mr. Magee agreed to have the policies checked.

AYE: McKee, Almond, Moreau. NAY: None.

Expansion of School

The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) has approved the potential expansion of the school by up to 76 students at the kindergarten level, in addition to student positions previously approved. The ability of Democracy PrepSM Blackstone Valley to carry out the expansion will, however, be subject to funding being available. Mr. Magee reported that RIDE is waiting for updated

numbers to determine how much funding for Democracy PrepSM there is in the new charter school line item as passed by the General Assembly. Although exactly what the assembly did is still in question, it appears that the full 76 seats were likely not funded; therefore, the school may not be able to expand by the full 76 seats. Whatever expansion is afforded, the lottery already has all applicants queued in order so that the number of additional students can be admitted off the waiting list.

Mr. Almond (seconded by Mr. Moreau) moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the school operated by Rhode Island Mayoral AcademySM Blackstone Valley is authorized, to the extent adequate funding is available, to accommodate up to an additional 76 students at the kindergarten level; such authority shall be in addition to the existing authority to operate a school having 76 students in each of kindergarten and grade 1 and 100 students in grade 5, and the advancing grades for each of the existing classes.

AYE: McKee, Almond, Moreau. NAY: None.

Public Forum

Mr. Magee lauded the Town of Lincoln for improving its kindergarten to full days.

Adjournment

Mr. Moreau (seconded by Mr. Almond) moved to adjourn. AYE: McKee, Almond, Moreau. NAY: None. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel C. Waugh, Secretary

“Democracy Prep”SM is a service mark of Democracy Builders.

“Mayoral Academy”SM is a service mark of Rhode Island Mayoral AcademiesSM.