

**Attendees:**

- Present: Kristina Vargo, Will Blackwell, Mae Lane, Baburhan Uzum, Ashlee Marshall, and Susie Kamman.
- Non-voting board associates present: Dr. Ronny Knox, SHSU Charter School Superintendent; Craig Toney, new SHSU Charter School Superintendent; Lisa Box, Administrative Associate; Rebecca Carruthers, District PEIMS Coordinator; Richard Ray, Charter School Business Manager; Melissa Stachowiak, SHSU Controller's Office; Alicia Hernandez, M.Ed., SHSU Charter School Principal; and Ginger Yount, TSUS Office of General Counsel.

**1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum**

- Dr. Kristina Vargo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and noted a quorum was present.

**2. Welcome to Our New Board Member**

- Mae Lane was welcomed as the newest Board Member.

**3. Approve Minutes for June 2023 Board Meeting**

- Minutes of the June 20, 2023 Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

**4. Board Member Training Approaching**

- Mr. Toney reminded all of the October 1, 2023 deadline required for compliance purposes. The requirements must be completed and reported to the Charter School email.

**5. Fiscal Year 22 Charter Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas ("Charter First") Report**

- Mr. Toney reported that of the seven indicators, all seven were met by the Charter School. He acknowledged the excellent work on achieving seven out of seven indicators.

**6. State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness ("STAAR") Projection Update**

- Mr. Toney advised that the STAAR updates on cut points (closing the gaps) was just released last week. He had a call with Dr. Morath in which he learned that all districts are anticipating a letter grade drop in STAAR performance. The Charter School anticipates their rating to be the same or better than last year. Congratulations were extended to Principal Hernandez and Dr. Knox for hitting all the standards. Science rating improvement will be a target for the upcoming year.

**7. Charter School Reporting**

Mr. Toney introduced Principal Hernandez who presented the campus updates.

o Campus Updates

Principal Hernandez provided the following:

- Principal Hernandez provided a review of the recent newsletter and an overview of the STAAR achievement. STAAR scores came out in mid-August.
- A lot of new talent was hired this summer. This year, we consolidated by closing a campus. Principal Hernandez noted an unprecedented teacher burnout rate. She believes teachers are drawn to the Charter School due to the at-will status of its teachers.
- There was reported many illnesses for both staff and students.
- Principal Hernandez is promoting a staff team building event.
- Upcoming events include Benchmark testing, and "Red Ribbon" week.
- The Charter School has adopted a new creative writing curriculum called iWrite.
- The entire district is transitioning to a digital platform subject to stringent Sam Houston State University (SHSU) guidelines. The new learning management platform is called Schoology.

- Program evaluations for English as a Second Language (ESL) are coming up in September. The Summit K12 program was purchased to assist ESL students (emergent bilingual students) in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This program was a great help to the students.
- Student growth in the ESL program has skyrocketed with 30 incoming this year. The growth is expect to reach 50 throughout school year.
- In Special Education news, the Bearkat Den is assisting students who need additional support for behavioral issues.
- The Charter School has begun transportation services for one student.
- The Texas Education Agency 's cyclical review is in progress.
- House Bill 4545 (HB 4545), renamed HB 4516, was enacted by the Texas Legislature, whereby schools must provide accelerated support for those who qualified for additional support due to STAAR testing issues.

○ Financial Reporting

Mr. Toney turned the meeting over to Richard Ray, the Business Manager for the Charter School.

- Mr. Ray presented the Financial Report as of July 31, 2023.
- Average student enrollment was 424. The expected average enrollment for the upcoming year is 472. Mr. Ray noted that administrative costs were high. Mr. Ray has updated the graphics on the finance reports to make them more legible.

○ 2023-2024 Enrollment Update

Mr. Toney provided the following:

- Enrollment currently stands at 477. This exceeds the target enrollment of 474. Enrollment is expected to increase as new students are enrolling.

○ Staffing

- The new staff hired to replace Lisa Box, Administrative Associate, will arrive on September 11. The Charter School has also hired one student worker who will arrive on September 1.

**8. Executive Session** – The Board conducted an Executive Closed Session pursuant to the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections 551.074 and 551.076, *et seq*. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in Open Session. The Board recessed to convene in Executive Session at 10:35 a.m., and reconvened in Open Session at 10:57 a.m.

**9. Public Comments** (Public shall be limited to five minutes per person.)

- No public comments were presented.

**10. Discussion and Possible Board Action**

- Approve Fiscal Year 24 Budget

Mr. Toney stated revisions were made to the budget in March, but additional revisions were made, and are presented here for approval by the Board.

*Motion by Will Blackwell, seconded by Mae Lane, and was unanimously approved*

- Approve Fiscal Years 2023-2024 Hiring Schedule

The Hiring Schedule was revised to remove decimal points and made divisible by 24 pay periods.

*Motion by Susie Kamman, seconded by Will Blackwell, and was unanimously approved*

- Approve Budget Amendment #4 Fiscal Year 23

The budget amendment to move money between functions as part of Charter One was presented for approval.

*Motion by Mae Lane, seconded by Will Blackwell and was unanimously approved*

- Vice-Chair and Secretary Positions

Nominations for vice chair and secretary positions were taken as follows:

Dr. Vargo nominated Dr. Blackwell for vice chair.

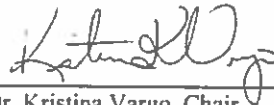
*Motion by Susie Kamman, seconded by Mae Lane, and was unanimously approved.*

Dr. Vargo nominated Dr. Uzum for secretary.

*Motion by Will Blackwell, seconded by Mae Lane, and was unanimously approved*

## II. Adjourn

- There being no further business, Kristina Vargo announced the meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.



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Dr. Kristina Vargo, Chair