

December 20, 2011, Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board  
**Detroit Service Learning Academy**  
21605 W. Seven Mile Road, Detroit, MI 48219

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**Attendance:**

**Present:** Douglas Bartell, James Dozier, Maurice Evans, Marcus McGrew, Anthony Moffett. Orlando Woods present by speaker phone and arrived later.

**Absent:** Carolyn Brown

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**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order by Maurice Evans at 5:08pm.

**Roll Call:** Douglas Bartell, James Dozier, Maurice Evans, Marcus McGrew, Anthony Moffett. Orlando Woods present by speaker phone and arrived later. Carolyn Brown was absent. Quorum of members was present.

**2. Approval of Lynda White as Board Member**

**ACTION:** Moved by Douglas Bartell and seconded by Anthony Moffett to approve Lynda White as a Board Member. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**ACTION:** Moved by James Dozier and seconded by Marcus McGrew to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**ACTION:** Moved by James Dozier and seconded by Douglas Bartell to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2011, board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Oath of Office for Lynda White**

Marcus McGrew administered the oath of office to Lynda White at 5:14pm.

**6. Finance**

Bond closed with \$1,000,350 funding coming to DSLA. Accounts payable were all paid. Title 1 and Title 1A budgets are being amended. The Finance Office is investigating replacing the present Peach Tree accounting software with a new software program.

**ACTION:** Moved by Marcus McGrew and seconded by James Dozier to approve the November, 2011, financials. Anthony Moffett cast a dissenting vote.

**7. Principal's Report**

Robert Hines & Luvenia Perkins presented an update on student activities citing 9 members in the National Junior Honor Society sanctioned for five years at DSLA and 6 members in the National Elementary Honor Society authorized for two years. New inductees will be installed in February, 2012. In Academic Games, DSLA's 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders placed second out of twelve schools and the 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders placed fourth out of the twelve. The Athletics Department is continuing to grow, offering girls' and boys' junior varsity and varsity basketball, dance, junior varsity and varsity cheerleading with football being offered in the near future. Basketball Camp was held for each grade level and the first cut has been made for the boys' basketball teams. Cheerleaders will continue to compete with other schools and plan to add to the number of trophies they have won. The Dance team boasts twelve female and two male students on the team. The Diamond League is a mentoring group assisting girls with social problems. Last year they traveled to Washington DC and visited a homeless shelter to complete their service learning project. They showed other schools how they developed and carried out their project. Pride helps young men develop leadership skills. Pride meets in three separate groups with Matthew Wettstein guiding students in grades K-2, Larry Mabry working with grades 3-5 and Michael Bagley assisting grades 6-8. DSLA also participates in the State of Michigan Youth Service America Council coming together with other schools to show them different ways to involve students in service learning. The Check In Check Out program mentors students experiencing social and/or academic problems. Fourteen students in the Primary and Elementary Academies and 34 students in the Junior Academy are receiving guidance through this program. Students are excited about posters displayed throughout the Main Building showing athletic prowess. These posters will be framed and hung in the gym. They will be rotated with new posters yearly.

Proposed Security Manual and SPED report were included in the Board packet.

Kelly Fuller and Ywanda Ndiyae shared the excitement and success of the first SWAG (Skill Workshop for Academic Gains) party. There were approximately 380 people in attendance. Parents completed a survey to give feedback. The session was 80 minutes long; however, the survey indicated parents wanted longer sessions and smaller groups and microphones. The next SWAG party will be in March.

Fifth grade is making plans for their annual trip to Atlanta, Georgia. The trip will take place from April 4-6, 2012. A tour of CNN has been added to the itinerary along with visits to Morehouse & Spellman Colleges, the Atlanta Aquarium and Six Flags. Cost per student will be \$242.00. Students will stay at the Atlanta Marriot Hotel as they have in the past. Funding will be enhanced with the proceeds from a school dance.

**ACTION:** Moved by Anthony Moffett and seconded by Douglas Bartell to authorize the out-of-state, overnight fifth grade trip to Atlanta, Georgia from April 4-6, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

Software inventory was completed and submitted in the Board packet for this month.

Dwayne Arnett requested the board approve the internet policy for enet usage. The technology plan established in 2006 will be replaced with a new plan for 2012-2015. The new technology plan will be completed by January 31, 2012 and presented at the February Board meeting for approval with official submission due April 30, 2012. Presently Forti-Net provides the fire wall protection. The technology committee working on the plan includes Dwayne Arnett, Sharon Arnett, Charlene Cutler and James Dozier. Anthony Moffett requested that an amendment be made to the policy stating that procedures for disbanding could be made as approved by the Principal or a member of the Executive Team.

**ACTION:** Moved by Anthony Moffett to accept the internet policy with the suggested amendment and seconded by Marcus McGrew. Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Achievement and Assessment Department**

NWEA update—More resources yield more positive results. In Reading students are nearing the expected goals. Many resources have contributed to this success including Instructional Coaches and literacy interventions over time. In Math there is a greater disparity between performance and the expectations for students. More resources are needed and more professional development for the teaching staff is needed. A new bubble initiative will be utilized with 25-30 students receiving intentional instruction, differentiation and small group instruction. Identification of these students has been completed. Teachers need to constantly monitor progress.

### **A. Updates for Math and Mathnasium**

Tamika Wilson, Teacher Coach for Math for Primary Academy thanked Christopher Beam for obtaining the updated version of Everyday Mathematics. The new computer applications and workbooks excite the students to use Math. Primary Academy uses the Math Board to create questions and incentives for teaching Math. Russell Moore will be doing another professional development for teachers, providing methods for making the foundation strong.

Christopher Beam, Teacher Coach for Math for Elementary Academy, is instructing teachers to apply math problems to real life settings. It is necessary to change how Math is taught to achieve higher scores. He opted for using CRA: Concrete= Draw everything, word  
Representative=Doing with our hands  
Abstract Teaching=Understanding and having a number sense of what  
we are doing

Begin with the process, end with the problem. Professional development will be offered on number sense and strategies. Teachers should use battle-tested methods. A national representative for Everyday Mathematics will help teachers update methods and skills.

Robert Hines, Teacher Coach for Math for Junior Academy, is concentrating on lesson plans and is using ability groupings for the first time:

- getting a different base and different emphasis for the first group of students, giving examples and guided practices to understand the process
- second group of students is moving a little faster and going into the next step
- third group is getting to application
- fourth group is getting to challenge problems

The first group will be challenged during the next class with application. Each group is challenged at different levels and at different bases.

Mathnasium—Students included in the first session of Mathnasium continue to use the techniques they learned and their grades continue to go up. The second session began with the second marking period. Mathnasium comprises highly specialized math learning centers servicing students from PreK - 12th Grades. Research based curriculum focused on developing strong problem solving, number sense, and critical thinking skills through a deep understanding of mathematical concepts is the focus of the

program. The goal is to significantly increase children's math skills, understanding of math concepts and overall school performance.

#### DSL A Results

- Basic Math Facts - # of correct facts in 3 minutes
- Addition - 40% improvement
- Subtraction - 83% improvement
- Multiplication - 82% improvement
- Covered Core Skills\*
- Grade 5 – 11.7% (Pre) to 87.5% (Post)
- Grade 6 – 20.1% (Pre) to 78.7% (Post)
- Grade 7 – 18.0% (Pre) to 76.9% (Post)
- Grade 8 – 33.2% (Pre) to 83.9% (Post)

Power Point presentation by Ms. Kimberly Smith, owner of Mathnasium, was played for Board members.

### **9. Authorizer's Report**

Mr. Bachman informed the board of the untimely death of Randolph J. Dubitsky, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer at Advance Technology Academy.

### **10. Board Business/President's Report**

Resignation of Jill Bachle as Chief Financial Officer effective December 31, 2011, was submitted.

**ACTION:** Moved by Marcus McGrew and seconded by James Dozier to accept the resignation of Jill Bachle as of December 31, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Resignation of Carolyn Brown as Board member effective December 6, 2011, was submitted.

**ACTION:** Moved by Douglas Bartell and seconded by Orlando Woods to accept the resignation of Carolyn Brown effective December 6, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION:** Moved by Orlando Woods and seconded by Douglas Bartell to add Maurice Evans to the signature line for checks at the bank. Motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Evans asked Robert Davis if he would consent to a closed meeting session. Upon his agreement, the following action ensued.

**ACTION:** Moved by James Dozier and seconded by Orlando Woods to move to a closed meeting at 6:27 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Open meeting reconvened at 7:35pm. Maurice Evans informed meeting attendees that Board members had discussed internal controls during the closed meeting and asked for a roll call vote.

**ACTION:** Roll call vote to suspend Robert Davis with pay during ongoing investigation. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Public Comments**

None.

**12. Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Moved by Anthony Moffett and seconded by Marcus McGrew to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**Certification**—I, Marcus McGrew, the duly elected Secretary of the Detroit Service Learning Academy Board, hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on December 20, 2011.

*Marcus McGrew*  
Board Secretary