

**ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS  
Meeting Minutes**

**BOARD  
APPROVED**  
APR 1 2014

Rockford Public Schools

**Administration Building  
March 18, 2014**

**OPEN SESSION**

The special meeting of the Rockford Board of Education for the Legacy Charter School renewal was called to order by President Kenneth Scrivano at 7:36 p.m.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Lisa Jackson, Mr. Tim Rollins Dr. Michael Harner, Mr. Michael Connor,  
Absent: Mrs. Laura Powers

Mr. Scrivano introduced Auburn High School Media Class students, Stephen Hahlen and Rommell Haire, who work with District staff to operate the broadcasting equipment.

Mrs. Nancy Kalchbrenner, was introduced as the meeting's moderator. Dr. Jarrett thanked Mrs. Kalchbrenner for her participation with the special meetings.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Dr. Barbara Forte, of Legacy, gave a presentation along with testimonials on the Legacy Rockford Charter School renewal.

The following responses were provided in response to the questions of the Charter Review Team:

- Academic performance, participation in student academic performance exhibitions, student portfolios, student participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities are used to measure their mission statement, although they do not have a formal measurement process in place.
- Teachers at Legacy will continue to maintain their portfolios and self-evaluation examinations. The academy will be building formative and summative evaluations that Legacy administration will provide. They will be using Danielson's Teacher Evaluation protocol.
- Legacy will continue to work the District's homeless liaisons to attain their students' status. Current Legacy staff has attended homeless training, and new staff members will also attend.
- Legacy's board has adopted a self-evaluation tool. This will be administered annually beginning this year.
- Legacy needs to communicate its leadership team meetings and formalize the meeting schedule. It has always had a leadership team, composed of administrators, instructional leadership, operational, student services, engineering, operations, and security. The team meets on a regular basis. Agendas and minutes exist.
- Legacy commented on their Rockford Elementary Basketball Association (REBA) involvement. A suspension levy fine was issued by REBA based upon issues of Legacy students not arriving on time to games. Legacy had to forfeit, as the schedule change was not communicated to the students. Students were charged an activity fee for the purchase and upkeep of uniforms. It is against REBA policy to charge these.

- One hundred percent of the Legacy staff is certified educators in Illinois. Ninety two percent of the staff is certified to teach in the classroom.
- The largest class size is currently twenty-nine.

The following responses were provided in response to the questions from Attorney Hoadley and Board members:

- Attorney Hoadley commented on Open Meetings Act issues. Legacy has agreed to address these problems.
- Legacy currently has eight board members; one member is an employee of Legacy Charter School. The board's roll is critical in regards to planning and complying with the District's requests. The ninth board member passed away. Legacy does have plans to fill the open position.
- Board meetings are scheduled to take place on a monthly basis; however some have been cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Board member terms are four years, and are renewable. The positions are elected and majority board vote elects the candidate.
- The demographics of the board are predominantly African American; however one Caucasian serves on the board. It is comprised of two men and six women.
- Legacy maintains a demographics report regarding student expulsion. This is submitted annually to the District.
- Meeting announcements are posted publicly and on the Legacy website.
- Concerns were raised of Legacy's strict zero tolerance policy regarding student discipline. Legacy spoke they attempt to put in place structures for students to be in a good classroom environment. Legacy diligently works with its students to teach them character virtues to minimize behavior issues.
- The staff demographics are eight males and thirty five females, eight African American and thirty two Caucasian, two Hispanic, and one Asian. Legacy does have a plan in place to bring in more diversity.
- CompED is Legacy's current management company, operated by Dr. Forte.
- Dr. Forte spoke of staff turnover at Legacy. Some are due to performance issues, and staff relocation.
- Dr. Forte is a board member, a paid employee, and the owner of CompEd, Legacy's management company. In addition, an additional board member is a paid consultant.
- Attorney Lisa Scruggs spoke as Legacy's legal counsel; addressing Board members that Legacy was prepared to make as many changes necessary. CompEd submitted the charter on behalf of Legacy and according to Legacy's bylaws, is the management company for the school.
- Concerns were raised regarding Legacy's quest to becoming an IB school. Comments included staff turnover as problematic regarding ongoing training and continuity for students.

The following public comments were made:

- Jelani McEwen, of Illinois Network of Charter Schools, spoke in support of the charter renewal for Legacy School. He spoke of the partnership being very fruitful for the District.
- Renee Colman, Instructional Coordinator for Legacy, spoke of her experience at Legacy and of it being a rewarding experience.
- Michael Trotter, Scholar Support Supervisor for Legacy, spoke of his support for Legacy and the opportunities he has working with students.
- Lynn Victorov, Instructional Coordinator for Legacy, spoke of her support for Legacy. She has been with the charter school since it opened in 2009 and feels she has been able to make a difference in the students' lives.
- Christopher Jenkins is a Legacy employee and board member. He is also a parent of a Legacy student. He spoke of how Legacy is changing lives and supports the renewal of the charter.
- Valencia Whetstone spoke in opposition to the charter renewal of Legacy. Her son was a student at the academy and spoke of his being mistreated by a staff member. She has since withdrawn him from the school.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no public speakers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Ms. Jackson seconded by Mr. Connor to **adjourn.**

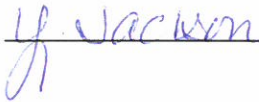
**Approved** on voice vote.

**Adjournment:** 8:55 p.m.

President:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Paul L.", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. Jackson", written over a horizontal line.

Approved:

/lf