



**Crescent Leadership Academy
Regular Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, September 20, 2018
5:30 pm at Crescent Leadership Academy
2701 Lawrence Street
New Orleans, LA 70114**

To join the online meeting

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://rop.zoom.us/j/4550956808>

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US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 461 414 420

Or iPhone one-tap: +16468769923,, 4329529991# or +16699006833,, 4329529991#

Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Items may be taken out of the order presented. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically impaired persons desiring to attend the meeting. Contact Carol Cantrell – carol.cantrell@rop.com. Public comment will be limited to five minutes per person, will follow each item and at the end of the meeting.

- I. **Roll Call:** Warren J. Atkins (in person), Richard Vance (in person), Tracy Bennett-Jospeh (in person), Farah Parker (in person), William Snowdon (in person), Elizabeth Horn (in person), Avery Cootes Foret (in person), Cassandra Williams (in person), Maurice Lightfoot (in person), Amelia Wax (in person), Cindy Gervie (present by phone), Carol Cantrell (present by phone)
Start time: 5:35pm
- II. **Review and Approval of Agenda and August Meeting Minutes (Action), ESP Reports**
Motion for approval moved and seconded (minutes approved)
 1. **Superintendent Report and Type 5 Charter Progress Report** – Tracy Joseph (Discussion)
Gang fight, student punched window and needed surgery, sending mother invoice because it was not during fight, he was trying to get back into the cafeteria to get to other students. All five expelled, one was senior with no prior incidents. Staff did a good job addressing the incident.
 - a. **Staffing Update:** Mr. Vance new school leader and he is making an impact with his presence on campus. We are good with PCR, but have critical positions to fill but can't due to budget. Received letter of concern last year due to special education. Out of compliance with two exceptional students. Annual student review is Nov. 14 and they will be looking at these things
 - b. **Curriculum Update:**

- a. Tier I – ELA and Math: Going well and meeting next week with TSA. Had to release Science teacher due to background check, position will be posted. Having challenges with staffing, but goes back to not having the funding for critical positions.
- c. **Culture and Climate** – PBIS: Several physical altercations but still strong. QA will be at CLA from Oct. 2-4 and will give feedback on areas that need addressed.
- d. Mr. Vance: Working on culture and meeting with teachers one on one to get their vision of the school. Tries to treat CLA like any other school and a huge learning curve for him. Issues with getting parent involvement, but address this issue every day. He wants parents to see his face and he is not afraid because he grew up in Chicago. Keeps his door open to have dialogue with parents and students. Oct. 3, back to school night provided copy of flyer to board. Spaghetti dinner and Marti Gras activities. Mr. Vance encouraged board members to attend.
- e. OPSD Changed billing, they will only pay for the students that are physically in school. If a student only comes 5 days, then CLA only gets paid for 5 days. This will make a big impact on the budget. Ms. Joseph reached out and it is not only CLA but also the NET and other expulsion schools, there were no conversations before they made these changes. The partnership with OPSB has taken a turn for the worse and they are looking into a complaint from a grandmother that CLA canceled a student out, but grandmother actually wanted her grand-daughter to have a new start. Suggest that if these conversations occur that we record it. Told OPSB that we are not turning students away. Ms. Joseph stated three staff were in the meeting with the grandmother as witnesses. Board member asked if one of the staff took notes, none were taken. Ms. Joseph sent back a response and waiting to see what happens. Invited to come out and take a tour to bridge the gap. In future, all meetings with parent/guardian should be documented in writing and a copy sent to the performance person to ensure they are aware of the conversation and we are covered. Suggested, find someone from Orleans Parish and ask if they want to sit in on the phone while future conversations with parents/guardians occur. Others stated to just keep our documentation and forward OPSD the notes/documentation. Ms. Joseph feels this is OPSB way of micro-managing and there is no communication according to other schools and this is just the way they operate.
- f. Received a letter from last year's cleaning company. They stated we signed an auto renewal. Ms. Joseph sent an email last month regarding all the issues and they are now requesting payment. Board member asked about documentation and Ms. Joseph has a copy of the email sent to them about performance dissatisfaction and not renewing the contract, but no prior documentation regarding poor performance was sent by the staff who oversaw the contract last year. They are asking we pay 25% of invoice. Board member stressed the importance of documentation regarding poor performance issues. Ms. Joseph has requested a copy of the original contract from Minden. We need to be mindful of how contracts are written. Ms. Joseph will review contract and send out.

III. **Financials-** CJ Bower (Discussion/Action): Cindy Gervie for CJ Bower. Revenue is significantly lower. Budgeted for 73 students we had 58 last month. Personnel divided by 12 months but Aug. had 3 pay periods. Generally, numbers higher but not showing due to open positions. Like Ms. Joseph stated using volunteers. Utilities \$4000, \$5800 for text book, working on Title 1 reimbursement. Ms. Joseph stated we have funds from last year from the state and will go in and code Eureka Math to title 1. No transportation expense, usually don't in July and Aug. Ms. Joseph has not signed contract but issues resolved and should see an invoice. Net loss \$23000, if transportation added it would have been about \$31,000 loss but should see some return from Title 1 money for the books. What will the financial impact with current students. Revenue is about 40% of what it should be. Sept. will look similar to Aug. revenue.

IV. **Board Updates and Action Items**

1. Subcommittee Updates, if any (Discussion/Action):
 - a. Fundraising Committee: Future Fundraisers?: Tabled until next meeting
2. Three suggestions for student growth at CLA: Mr. Atkins stated the board took a step back to let school leaders handle issues but the board still needs to support CLA leadership. Funding plan, we need board commitment and provide strategy to help Ms. Joseph move CLA forward. Bills have been paid by ROP based on budget of academic year, budget decreasing drastically over the last 3 years. We have to find a way to get recruitment up.

Ideas: Mr. Atkins attended meeting with other charter chairs. Stated we are not the only ones with low student population. Thought about sitting with someone from OPSB to get suggestions. Get information on innovative and creative ways to get students through the door.

Ms. Parker asked if we are in a position to have formal partnership with other schools? Working with school so if a student is up for expulsion then CLA would be 1st considered. Ms. Joseph and Ms. Faulk have reached out, off record, to other schools. RSV has always put CLA to the back when placing students, we get what is left over. We need to break that door down with OPSB. Our numbers keep getting smaller. Not sure what we can do.

Ms. Joseph stated parents are being told at expulsion hearing that they do not want their kids to go to CLA. Is there an option to sit down with the staff member making comments and have a panel of students to talk about what CLA is offering? We have been fighting this battle with this one staff since day 1 and had conversation with OPSB regarding this person and this person continues to make placement decisions.

Ms. Joseph stated that the board may want to address some of these issues with OPSB. Possibly, schedule a meeting where our board meet with their board. Ms. Joseph had the superintendent come out and only two board members attended. The president of the NET now works for OPSB board. When we were at 300 they came in and we had 62 kids that were not put in the system. They came in and was concerned about CLA having two types of students. Then we agreed to not service Choice kids for two years but even though the two years is expired we still do not take Choice kids.

Another idea was an online option for students with transportation issues. Have them attend class virtually and have a system that records them while testing. Ms. Joseph

stated CLA tried with a few students last year but the challenge was no technology in the home and student was not doing the work and no parent oversight. Like the option but how viable would it remain? Maybe the students do monthly check-ins to help with benchmarks.

Another suggestion, GED classes at night and is there funding available? Open it up for students and parents. Would state give us credit for online students. Answer was yes. Would parents be comfortable with students being at home without supervision? Adult learners would be a plus. Adult GED program would be in the evening, cost for exam and we could set price. Are there resources in the community that would help with cost of GED test?

For online classes provide options of library within 5 miles of residence.

Advertising to get a positive image out about CLA to get parents thinking about CLA. An agenda was sent out a month ago and it was very positive and well written.

Whatever school puts a student out pays the expulsion fee but they do not go after schools outside of New Orleans Parish.

Is there an option of home schooling? We had a few kids last year that we put on home school but it was difficult to pull a staff to go out and check on them. Home school is not ideal because you do not know what you are walking into.

3. Suggestions for new or amended meeting times to better meet member schedules: All board members have scheduling conflicts and very busy. Mr. Atkins suggested 6 face to face and 6 call-in meetings. If you cannot come in on a month we meet they need to at least call-in. Suggest an alternative meeting spot, ie. Public library, conference rooms at their place of work. Someone suggested a location but could not hear what he said. Mr. Atkins trying to find a way to be more flexible. Will also help budget so Ms. Joseph doesn't have to pay someone to stay and lock-up. Maybe we meet every other month to help with board attendance. Location for next meeting is at TBA

V. **Future Agenda Items:** Public Comment: No public comment

VI. **Adjournment:** 6:51pm

1. Next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for October 25, 2018 @ 5:30 pm Local TBA