



Phalen Leadership Academies Board Meeting Notes

January 26, 2021

I. **Preliminary**

Meeting called to order by the Board Chair at 4:31 PM on Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Board Member	Present	Absent
Marlin Jackson	X	
Kris Kingery	X	
Earl Martin Phalen	X	
Jim Phalen	X	
Dr. Fernando Reimers	X	

II. **Approval of Board Minutes**

III. **Action Item: Race & Equity Policy**

Nicole Scott presented a new policy to adopt on race and equity.

The board voted unanimously to approve the race and equity policy.

Board member, Kris Kingery, made a comment about the positive impact of having a Parent Advisory board, which has given parents a platform to voice their perspective.

IV. **Academics**

Andrea Robinson presented the State of School report.

All building leaders presented five Smart Goals at the beginning of the school year, and a regular meeting structure has been established to track progress towards these goals.

PLA Indianapolis schools saw an increase in both math and reading percentages with the scholars that tested in the fall.

PLA released an Academic Playbook in January to support our leaders. To support Playbook implementation, PLA also just launched Turnaround Leader in Residency Program for current building leadership. We are excited the impact that this program is going to have on the success of our leaders, schools and scholars.

V. **New and Expanded Programming**

Summer Advantage and Reading Advantage:

Amber Deckard gave an overview of our Summer and Reading Advantage programs.

Reading Advantage is a new after school tutoring program that is being piloted in two of our schools. This program focuses on reading and homework assistance, as well as enrichment.

Amber and her team are now focusing on ramping up for Summer Advantage, with a goal to offer this programming to all PLA schools and scholars for Summer 2021.

PLA University:

Shayne Abrahams gave a brief overview of PLA University.

PLA University was created to assist any PLA family member – starting in Marion County – and provide them access to a free career workforce development program. This program will assist participants with the obtainment of industry recognized credentials and job placement. The start date is March 22, 2021.

A board member asked if this was a pilot program with the long-term goal of bringing this to more communities. Leadership stated that the goal is to bring this program to more communities and eventually all PLA schools, however, we want to pilot it and get it strong before expanding.

Another board member noted that the key to success will be to have employers lined up for participants once they graduate.

PLA Virtual:

Dr. Tora Townsend presented on PLA Virtual.

This is the first year for PLA Virtual and they are flourishing with representation from 14 cities throughout Indiana. Dr. Townsend is committed to providing consistent coaching, implementing systems that will ensure success and being intentional about building a strong community.

Education One:

Lindsay Omlor presented the Authorizer's Report.

Each month they meet with Dr. Tora Townsend and her team to perform a school site visit and observation. This is done virtually in order to capture real-time trend data. During these monthly visits, they are measuring the school against metrics outlined in their Accountability Plan Performance Framework. The three key indicators that they look for are: 1) Academic Performance, 2) Financial Performance, and 3) Organizational Performance. PLA Virtual is currently meeting all standards.

VI. Organizational Evolution

Earl Martin Phalen gave a brief overview on PLA's Organizational Evolution.

PLA has been spending a great amount of time on making sure that we deliver the level of excellence that we really want. Our PLA network has done an exceptional job turning 9

failing schools into A-rated and B-rated schools. Leadership shared several Initiatives that are being implemented to continue to strengthen our impact on the lives of our children and families.

VII. Financials

The financial report was presented by Eva Spilker.

The board unanimously voted to approve the financial report.

VIII. Open Communications

There was no Open Communication.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM.