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Houston, Texas 77037
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Board Meeting January 27,2021

**ALFRED "A.J." WILLIAMS (BOARD PRESIDENT)
DAMON "CHAD" STEWARD (BOARD VICE PRESIDENT)
KENNETH WHITE (BOARD SECRETARY)
DR. GLORIA ROSE (BOARD MEMBER)
DUSTIN SIMMONS (BOARD MEMBER)**

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**Texas Serenity Academy January 27, 2021
Special Board Meeting
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
The Board of Directors
TEXAS SERENITY ACADEMY
8500 Sweetwater Rd. Houston, Texas 77088 281-931-8887

A **Special Meeting** of the Board of Directors of Texas Serenity Academy will be held **January 27, 2021** at **6:00 PM** at **8500 Sweetwater**. The subjects to be considered, discussed, or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this notice.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
 - DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

2. **REPORTS TO THE BOARD:**
 - Update from TEA Monitor: Ms. Celine Reed
 - Update from Bond Acquisition Team: Mr. Clarence Grier

3. **ACTION:** Approve Minutes of December 9, 2020 and December 16, 2020.

4. **ACTION:** Approval of AFR and Budget Adjustments for 2019-20 presented by Auditor Gomez (or representative) and Ms. Rowe

5. **ACTION:** Approval of revised TIP Plan

6. **ACTION:** Approval of HB3 amendment

7. **ACTION:** Adjournment

The notice for this meeting was posted in compliance with the *Texas Open Meeting Act* on 01/23/2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Signing on behalf of the Board of Directors: *Larry Jenkins*

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December 09, 2020

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors

TEXAS SERENITY ACADEMY

8500 Sweetwater Lane, Houston, Texas 77088 281-931-8887

A **Board Meeting** of the Board of Directors of Texas Serenity Academy was held **December 09, 2020 at 6:00 PM.** Board Members and the general public participated virtually via ZOOM conference due to the current COVID19 virus and its potential spread to the general population. Again, this meeting was conducted via ZOOM conference in conformance with the Open Records Meetings Act.

CALL TO ORDER by President A.J. Williams

- **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** President Williams declared a quorum was present with all five members in attendance: Mr. Steward, Mr. White, Dr. Rose, Mr. D. Simmons*, and Mr. Williams
1. **Report to the Board:** Information on the bond acquisition for TSA on 8500 Sweetwater Lane property (presented by District Bond Acquisition Team) Mr. Clarence Greer presented an update on the bond and answered the board's questions.
 2. **Action:** Approve Minutes of October 28, 2020. Dr. Rose made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Steward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
 3. **Action:** Approve Special Education Legal Framework Policies for 2020. This item was discussed at a previous board meeting. Mr. White made a motion to approve and Dr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
 4. **Action:** Approve budget amendment for 2020-2021. Mr. Grier explained to the Board that this amendment reflected an enrollment of 427 students instead of 498 students and answered the Board's questions. Dr. Rose moved to approve and Mr. Steward seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
 5. **Action:** Approve Depository Contract with Region Bank. Mr. Simmons discussed the reasons for moving the district account to Region Bank. It was felt they were more friendly toward charter schools, would help the school with the bond, and would be open to a line of credit. Mr. Oscar Davis, head of the charter school division of the bank, was present. Mr. White made a motion to approve and Mr. Steward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
 6. **Action:** Approve Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2020-2021. This motion was tabled until the next meeting. Dr. Rose moved to table this item and Mr. Steward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
 7. **Action:** Motion to go into CLOSED MEETING : Mr. Steward moved to go into closed session and Mr. D. Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. President Williams led the Board into closed session at 6:20.

CLOSED MEETING may be conducted under a Texas Government Code, Sections: 1.551.071 Consultation with Attorney 2.551.072 Real Property 3.551.073 Prospective Gifts 4.551.074 Personnel Matters 5.551.076 Security Devices 6.551.082 Student Discipline 7.551.082 Employee-Employee Complaints 8.551.0821 Personally Identifiable Information about Public School Student 9.551.087 Economic Development Negotiations

- ***Superintendent Evaluation***

PUBLIC NOTICE is given pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, government Code, Chapter 551,tha the Texas Serenity Academy Board of Trustees may elect to go into closed meeting at any time during the above meeting for discussion of subjects properly before them when authorized by the provisions of said act. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open session. Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting.

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8. **Action:** Return to Open Session: Dr. Rose moved to return to open session and Mr. Steward seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. President Williams returned the Board to open session at 6:45 p.m.
9. **Action:** Approve the Superintendent’s Contract Mr. D. Simmons moved to approve the contract and Mr. Steward seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. Mr. Jenkins reminded the Board that the contract salary would be posted on the district website.
10. **Action:** Adjournment. Mr. Steward made a motion to adjourn and Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

President Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:59pm.

Board Present:

Mr. A.J. Williams, President
Mr. Chad Steward, Vice President
Mr. Kenneth White, Secretary
Dr. Gloria Rose
Mr. Dustin Simmons (*no relation to Mr. Hagmon Simmons, Supt.)

Staff Present:

Mr. Simmons, Superintendent
Mr. Jenkins, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Pointer, Principal

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Reed, TEA
Mr. Grier, RBC Bank
Mr. Davis, Region Bank
Mr. Coleman, Attorney
Ms. Moffett, Consultant

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December 16, 2020

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
The Board of Directors
TEXAS SERENITY ACADEMY
8500 Sweetwater Lane, Houston, Texas 77088 281-931-8887

A **Special Board Meeting** of the Board of Directors of Texas Serenity Academy was held **December 16, 2020** at **6:00 PM.** Board Members and the general public participated virtually via ZOOM conference due to the current COVID19 virus and its potential spread to the general population. Again, this special meeting was conducted via ZOOM conference in conformance with the Open Records Meetings Act.

CALL TO ORDER : The meeting was called to order by President A.J. Williams at 6:04 p.m. A quorum of Mr. Williams, Mr. Steward, Mr. White, Mr. Dustin Simmons and Dr. Rose was present.

Mr. Williams introduced Ms. Reed to present her Quarterly Report:

REPORT TO THE BOARD: TEA Monitor Quarterly Report as presented by Ms. Reed, TEA Appointed Monitor:

- Ms. Reed introduced herself to the board and began presenting her quarterly monitors report.
- Ms. Reed reviewed the testing procedures portion of her report. She stated that district training was completed for the achieved goal for testing. This was one of the areas that TSA was cited for by TEA.
- Ms. Reed stated that her goal is to collect evidence of activities.
- Ms. Reed stated that additional items had been added to her list as a Monitor but 3 of the 6 items are on track for completion.
- Atty. Evans mentioned the year to year dates for the quarterly report might be incorrect and Ms. Reed stated that she would make the correction before finalizing her report.
- Ms. Reed stated that TSA timelines were well on their way.
- Ms. Reed stated congratulations to Mr. Simmons and his team for doing a great job.
- Ms. Reed thanked everyone and Mr. Simmons for working with her and being cooperative.
- Ms. Reed stated that the quarterly report was complete.
- Mr. Williams asked what would make the district status be off track; Ms. Reed stated that the organization and presentations were received.
- Ms. Reed stated that the school and the financial team are on the road to improvement.
- Mr. H. Simmons stated the 2018-2019 audit was delayed because the TSA Finance Director was out ill and he put procedures in place to ensure this would never happen again and this year's audit will be submitted on time.
- Ms. Reed stated that everything has been received on time.
- Ms. Reed again stated that she would correct the year end improvement date on the report.
- Ms. Reed concluded her report by thanking everyone.

Action: Approve Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2020-2021 as presented by Steve Roberts, DCSI

- Mr. Williams read the next action item to be presented which is the TIP for 2020-2021.
- Mr. Roberts stated that Region 4 has continued to be helpful and that Gano is an "A" rated campus.
- Mr. Roberts stated that Ms. Pointer is a rock star as a principal; she is very committed and competent.
- Mr. Roberts stated that all required reports will be submitted on time and that he had a meeting with Mr. H. Simmons to ensure that all required reports would be submitted on time.
- Ms. Pointer stated that everything in the TIP report is implemented with fidelity.

- Mr. H. Simmons stated that the TIP plan is due this Friday and must be approved by the board.
- Mr. Williams called for a motion to vote on the TIP 2020-2021 as presented to the board; Mr. White made the motion and it was properly 2nd by Dr. Rose and the vote carried unanimously 5-0.

Action: Motion for Adjournment:

- Mr. Williams called for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Steward made the motion and it was properly 2nd by Mr. D. Simmons and the vote carried unanimously 5-0.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Mr. A.J. Williams

Mr. Ken White

Dr. Gloria Rose

Mr. Chad Steward

Mr. Dustin Simmons

Non-Board Members:

Mr. Hagmon Simmons, Supt.

Mr. Larry Jenkins, Asst. Supt.

Mr. Kelly Evans, Attorney

Ms. Michelle Foreman

Ms. Rondalyn Pointer

Mr. Steve Roberts

Ms. Reed, TEA Monitor

Proposed Amendments

100.1207

ATTACHMENT II
Text of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC

Chapter 100. Charters

Subchapter AA. Commissioner's Rules Concerning Open-Enrollment Charter Schools

Division 6. Charter School Operations

§100.1207. Student Admission.

(a) Maximum enrollment. Total enrollment shall not exceed the maximum number of students approved in the open-enrollment charter. [~~Application deadline. For admission to a charter school, a charter holder shall:~~

~~(1) require the applicant to complete and submit an application not later than a reasonable deadline the charter holder establishes; and~~

~~(2) on receipt of more acceptable applications for admission under this section than available positions in the school:~~

~~(A) except as permitted by subsection (b) of this section, fill the available positions by lottery; or~~

~~(B) subject to subsection (c) of this section, fill the available positions in the order in which all timely applications were received.]~~

(b) Geographic boundaries. Students enrolled at a school shall not reside outside such school's commissioner-approved boundary unless such student is the child of an employee of the school who resides outside the charter school's approved geographic boundary. [~~Lottery exemption. The charter holder may exempt students from the lottery required by subsection (a) of this section to the extent this is consistent with the definition of a "public charter school" under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, §5210 (NCLB), as interpreted by the United States Department of Education (USDE).]~~

(c) Primary and secondary geographic boundaries. A charter school may establish a primary and secondary boundary. Students who reside outside the primary geographic boundary stated in the open-enrollment charter shall not be admitted to the charter school until all eligible applicants that reside within the primary boundary and have submitted a timely application have been enrolled. Then, if the open-enrollment charter so provides for a secondary boundary, the charter holder may admit students who reside within the secondary boundary to the charter school in accordance with the terms of the open-enrollment charter. [~~Newspaper publication. To the extent this is consistent with the definition of a "public charter school" under the NCLB, as interpreted by the USDE, a charter holder may fill applications for admission under subsection (a)(2)(B) of this section only if it published a notice of the opportunity to apply for admission to the charter school. A notice published under this subsection must:~~

~~(1) state the application deadline; and~~

~~(2) be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the community in which the school is located not later than the seventh day before the application deadline. For purposes of this chapter, a newspaper of general circulation is defined as one that has more than a minimum number of subscribers among a~~

~~particular geographic region, that has a diverse subscribership, and that publishes some news items of general interest to the community.]~~

(d) Student admission and enrollment. Except as provided by this section, the governing body of the charter holder must adopt a student admission and enrollment policy that:

(1) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; national origin; ethnicity; religion; disability; academic, artistic, or athletic ability; or the district the child would otherwise attend under state law; ~~and~~

(2) specifies any type of non-discriminatory enrollment criteria to be used at each charter school operated by the charter holder. Such non-discriminatory enrollment criteria may make the student ineligible for enrollment based on a history of a criminal offense, a juvenile court adjudication, or serious documented discipline problems, **specifically conduct described under Sections 37.006 and 37.007** under Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 37, Subchapter A, ~~documented~~ as provided for by the charter school's approved local policy[-]; and

(3) ~~specifies whether students will be admitted to the charter school campus on a first come, first served basis, or by lottery.~~

(e) Publication of notice requirements. To the extent this is consistent with the definition of a "public charter school" under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act P.L. 114-95 (ESSA), as interpreted by the United States Department of education (USDE), a charter holder may fill applications for admission under subsection (f)(2)(B) of this section only if it published a notice of the opportunity to apply for admission to the charter school. At a minimum, a notice published under this subsection must:

(1) state the application deadline; and

(2) be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the community in which the school is located not later than the seventh day before the application deadline. For purposes of this chapter, a newspaper of general circulation is defined as one that has more than a minimum number of subscribers among a particular geographic region, that has a diverse subscribership, and that publishes some news items of general interest to the community.

~~[Student admission and enrollment at charter schools specializing in performing arts. In accordance with the TEC, §12.111 and §12.1171, a charter school specializing in performing arts, as defined in this subsection, may adopt a student admission and enrollment policy that complies with this subsection in lieu of compliance with subsections (a)-(d) of this section.~~

~~(1) A charter school specializing in performing arts as used in this subsection means a school whose open enrollment charter includes an educational program that, in addition to the required academic curriculum, has an emphasis in one or more of the performing arts, which include music, theatre, and dance. A program with an emphasis in the performing arts may include the following components:~~

~~(A) a core academic curriculum that is integrated with performing arts instruction;~~

~~(B) a wider array of performing arts courses than are typically offered at public schools;~~

~~(C) frequent opportunities for students to demonstrate their artistic talents;~~

~~(D) cooperative programs with other organizations or individuals in the performing arts community; or~~

~~(E) other innovative methods for offering performing arts learning opportunities.~~

~~(2) To the extent this is consistent with the definition of a "public charter school" under the NCLB, as interpreted by the USDE, the governing body of a charter holder that operates a charter school specializing in performing arts may adopt an admission policy that requires a student to demonstrate an interest or ability in the performing arts or to audition for admission to the school.~~

~~(3) The governing body of a charter holder that operates a charter school specializing in performing arts must adopt a student admission and enrollment policy that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, academic or athletic ability, or the district the child would otherwise attend under state law.~~

~~(4) The governing body of a charter holder that operates a charter school specializing in performing arts must adopt a student admission and enrollment policy that specifies any type of non-discriminatory enrollment criteria to be used at the charter school. Such non-discriminatory enrollment criteria may make the student ineligible for enrollment based on a history of a criminal offense, a juvenile court adjudication, or discipline problems under TEC, Chapter 37, Subchapter A, documented as provided by local policy.]~~

(f) Application deadline. For admission to a charter school, a charter holder shall:

- (1) require the applicant to complete and submit, in the form prescribed by the commissioner, a common application form, referred to as the Texas Charter School Admission Application, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year and not later than a reasonable deadline established by the charter holder and approved by the commissioner of education;
 - (A) The common application form shall be posted on TEA's website, and the form and all associated fields shall be posted on each open-enrollment charter school's website to be used by an applicant for admission to an open-enrollment charter school campus.
 - (B) The common application form and the student admission and enrollment policy under subsection (d) or (e), including the policies and procedures for admission, lotteries, enrollment, student waitlists, withdrawals, reenrollment, and transfers, shall be publicly accessible and easily available on the charter school's website. A charter school must make available the common application form and may not require, solely, the use of an account, email, password, or other condition to access the information or the common application form. A charter school may also print copies of the common application form and make them available for use during the admission process.
 - (C) An open-enrollment charter school may not alter or add to the form any additional criteria, questions, statements, advertisements, or solicitations or require any conditions for a person to access the form. An open-enrollment charter school may not sell, provide, or ask an applicant to agree to share or have the charter school share any student information provided in the application to any person or entity other than the Texas Education Agency.
- (2) on receipt of more acceptable applications for admission under this section than available positions in the school, the charter school shall:
 - (A) fill the available positions by lottery, except as permitted by subsection (g) of this section; or
 - (B) fill the available positions in accordance with the open-enrollment charter school's approved student admission and enrollment policy, subject to subsection (d) of this section;
- (3) create and manage a waitlist as described in subsection (h) of this section for applicants who are not admitted, once all available positions in the school have been filled.

~~[Maximum enrollment. Total enrollment shall not exceed the maximum number of students approved in the open enrollment charter. A charter school may establish a primary and secondary boundary. Students who reside outside the primary geographic boundary stated in the open enrollment charter shall not be admitted to the charter school until all eligible applicants that reside within the primary boundary and have submitted a timely application have been enrolled. Then, if the open enrollment charter so provides for a secondary boundary, the charter holder may admit students who reside within the secondary boundary to the charter school in accordance with the terms of the open enrollment charter.]~~

- (g) ~~Lottery exemption. The charter holder may exempt students from the lottery required by subsection (d) of this section to the extent this is consistent with the definition of a "public charter school" under ESEA as reauthorized under ESSA, as interpreted by the USDE, including, but not limited to siblings of students already admitted to or attending the same charter school; children of a charter school's founders, teachers, and staff (so long as the total number of students allowed under this exemption constitutes only a small percentage of the school's total enrollment not to exceed ten percent); and children of employees in a work-site charter school, (so long as the total number of students allowed under this exemption constitutes only a small percentage of the school's total enrollment not to exceed ten percent).~~
- (h) ~~Waitlist. Charter holders required to create and maintain a waitlist as a result of receiving more acceptable applications for admission than available positions at the school shall manage and update the student waitlist.~~
- (1) ~~Each school year, the following information must be maintained at the campus level for reporting to TEA no later than the deadline specified in §100.1208 of this title:~~
- (A) ~~the total number of students on the waitlist;~~
- (B) ~~the number of students on the waitlist disaggregated by grade level; and~~
- (C) ~~information necessary to identify each student, as specified in §100.1208 of this title.~~
- (2) ~~The waitlist of each charter school campus shall be managed according to that charter holder's policy, which must include the following criteria:~~
- (A) ~~The names of eligible students with completed applications who apply and are not admitted shall be added to the end of the waitlist in the order in which the applications are received;~~
- (B) ~~As spaces become available at the charter school campus during the school year, the school must consult its campus waitlist and select a new student for enrollment in the order that students appear on the list; and~~
- (C) ~~The charter school shall review each campus waitlist no less than every 60 days and eliminate duplicate entries and the names of students that have been admitted to that charter school.~~
- (3) ~~An open-enrollment charter school may not sell, provide, or ask a student to agree to share any student information on the waitlist with any person or entity other than the TEA.~~
- (i) ~~Student admission and enrollment at charter schools specializing in performing arts. In accordance with TEC, §12.111 and §12.1171, a charter school specializing in performing arts, as defined in this subsection, may adopt a student admission and enrollment policy that complies with this subsection in lieu of compliance with subsections (a)-(h) of this section.~~
- (1) ~~A charter school specializing in performing arts as used in this subsection means a school whose open-enrollment charter includes an educational program that, in addition to the required academic curriculum, has~~

an emphasis in one or more of the performing arts, which include music, theatre, and dance. A program with an emphasis in the performing arts may include the following components:

- (A) a core academic curriculum that is integrated with performing arts instruction;
 - (B) a wider array of performing arts courses than are typically offered at public schools;
 - (C) frequent opportunities for students to demonstrate their artistic talents;
 - (D) cooperative programs with other organizations or individuals in the performing arts community; or
 - (E) other innovative methods for offering performing arts learning opportunities.
- (2) To the extent this is consistent with the definition of a "public charter school" as defined in ESEA as reauthorized under ESSA as interpreted by the USDE, the governing body of a charter holder that operates a charter school specializing in performing arts must require the applicant to complete and submit a common admission application form as described in subsection (f)(1) of this section, and may adopt an admission policy that requires a student to demonstrate an interest or ability in the performing arts or to audition for admission to the school.
- (3) The governing body of a charter holder that operates a charter school specializing in performing arts must adopt a student admission and enrollment policy that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, academic or athletic ability, or the district the child would otherwise attend under state law.
- (4) The governing body of a charter holder that operates a charter school specializing in performing arts must adopt a student admission and enrollment policy that specifies any type of non-discriminatory enrollment criteria to be used at the charter school. Such non-discriminatory enrollment criteria may make the student ineligible for enrollment based on a history of a criminal offense, a juvenile court adjudication, or serious documented discipline problems under TEC, Chapter 37, Subchapter A, as provided for by the charter school's approved local policy.