



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRIGHT STAR SCHOOLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A meeting for the Bright Star Schools' Board of Directors was held on Monday, August 16, 2021 via teleconference pursuant to notice duly given. In attendance were Board Chair Andrew Murr, and Board members Jen Cole, Robin Elledge, Larry Klein, Lois Levy, James McGrath, Stephen Green, Marisol León, George Leftwich, Louisa Wee, and Andrew Wang.

Bright Star staff in attendance included: Saman Bravo-Karimi, Hrag Hamalian, Elijah Sugay, Laura Gonzalez Reed, Kaitlin Foe, Olivia Ray, Leeann Yu, Melissa Kaplan, and China Habte. The order of the agenda proceeded as follows:

### *General Session*

1. **Call Meeting to Order + Introduction of Visitors / Guests:** Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Board Chair Andrew Murr.
2. **Public Comment Period (for items not on the agenda):** None made.
3. **Presentation by Founding VAMS Dean of Operations:** Ms. Delma Rosales gave a presentation on her experience of serving students at Bright Star, as well as the highs and lows of operations during Covid.
4. **Executive Director Report:** Mr. Hamalian presented on the following topics:
  - a. **Introduction to the new compliance coordinator:** Ms. Laura Gonzalez Reed introduced Ms. Olivia Ray, the new compliance coordinator for the School Support Team. She returns to Bright Star having been an elementary school teacher for Stella Elementary Charter Academy.
  - b. **2021 Graduates:** Mr. Hamalian shared the early numbers received for the 301 Bright Star 2021 graduates and their post-secondary paths
  - c. **Charter Petition update:** Mr. Hamalian shared that due to a trailer bill passed in July, the renewal terms of most school charters will be extended for two years, though the term will be reviewed at a 7-year cycle (instead of 5). This applies to RKES, VAMS, VAHS, SECA and SMCA.
  - d. **Org Health Dashboard:** Mr. Hamalian then reviewed the org health dashboard's high level updates and committee review, as well as the timeline of cycles
  - e. **Oversight Visits:** While individual sections were shared at committee levels, Mr. Hamalian shared the scores for all schools as well as the feedback and areas of growth shared by the district and Bright Star's plan for continued growth.
  - f. **Items for Approval:** Mr. Hamalian reviewed all items on the individual and consent agenda
  - g. **Individual Item: Resolution Declaration of Need:** Mr. Hamalian introduced Ms. Nicole Wellman Noble, who shared an update on the resolution of declaration of need, including context, change in the process, and its significance. She yielded the remaining time for questions from board members.
  - h. **Student and Family Handbooks:** He shared that the handbooks have been updated for the 21-22 school year and have been reviewed by the academic committee. Two important things to note are that the handbooks have been separated into school site and



org-wide policies, as well as the full handbooks have been translated professionally into Spanish and Korean.

- i. Re-approval of board dates: Mr. Hamalian shared that the dates approved at the last board meeting remained, but had been reviewed by all committees.
  - j. Remote work policy: Mr. Hamalian shared the new remote work policy for non-school site based employees and provided time for questions from board members.
  - k. Independent Study: BSS has historically had an independent study policy to assist students in continued learning during short leaves of absence. The Governor has mandated an in-person return to school to the extent possible and distance learning is no longer viable without a material amendment to charters. AB130 requires schools to offer independent study as a means of providing education in the event that a student/family has concerns regarding health returning in person or is quarantined due to positive case protocol. Additionally, a public hearing must be held for independent study policy
- 5. Independent Study Policy Public Hearing:** Mr. Andrew Murr offered space for any member of the public to give public comment, however, no members of the public attended.
- 6. Deputy Superintendent of Education report:** Ms. Melissa Kaplan shared updates on various topics including:
- a. Summer school updates: Ms. Kaplan shared the updates for operation of summer school across elementary, middle, and high school.
  - b. iReady update: Ms. Kaplan shared Bright Star's level of preparedness for launching iReady and how it will impact academic performance. She also shared how Bright Star is monitoring the success of the program's success by creating and monitoring two Wildly Important Goals (WIG). Three main components of iReady:
    - i. Students are assessed three times a year.
    - ii. Their score and goals are based on the initial score.
    - iii. Students receive a typical growth goal and a stretch goal
- Ms. Kaplan also reported on independent study policies and the variances in options for students who are not able to come on campus for instruction.
- 7. Chief Business Officer presentation:** Mr. Bravo-Karimi shared a high level overview of the items on the consent agenda, as well as a closer look at the financials and the dashboard updates. In this, he shared information regarding updates 21-22 budget, including updates from the CA State Budget, the LCFF increase and the expanded learning opportunities grant.

He also shared that beginning in 2022-23 and continuing through 2025-26, the eligibility date for TK students will expand by three months until all four-year-olds born by September 1 are eligible for a full year of TK before kindergarten. TK Expansion planning grant available for 2021-22 school year. He shared that this is pending more details and is not currently reflected in BSS budgets

Next, Mr. Bravo-Karimi shared an update on the enrollment at each school level (elementary, middle and hgh). A discussion was had around recruitment strategies and operations.

Mr. Bravo-Karimi shared an update regarding the RKHS and RKMS construction projects, including the subleases as well as details about the Lafayette Roof repair project.



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In terms of general facilities updates, Mr. Bravo Karimi shared the following additional updates:

- RKHS: 2nd/3rd floor remodels and the bids for doing so; Prop51 updates
- VAMS: Furniture and Turf Repair projects and the bids for doing so
- SECA/St. Bernadette HVAC and the bids for doing so; LAUSD Material revision update
- BSSCA: Deck project and the bids for doing so
- RKMS: Prop 51 updates

8. **Committee reports:** Andrew Murr, Lois Levy and Louisa Wee gave updates from their meeting and the recommendations for the items on the agenda for approval

9. **Administrative / Governance Items:**

- a. Approval of the following items - individual item: Resolution for all Bright Star Schools regarding the certificated person(s) not meeting the district's specified employment criteria. Jen Cole made the motion to approve, Lois Levy seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously

Board Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Not Present
Stephen Green	X			
Larry Klein				x
George Leftwich	X			
Lois Levy	X			
James McGrath	x			
Andrew Murr	X			
Andrew Wang	x			
Louisa Wee	X			
Robin Elledge	x			
Marisol León	X			
Dora Dome	X			
Jennifer Cole	X			
TOTAL	11	0	0	1
Motion Carries? YES or NO	YES			

b. Approval of the following items (consent agenda): **Regular**

1. Minutes from June Board Meeting
2. Minutes from August Governance Committee
3. Minutes from August Finance Committee meeting
4. Minutes from August Academic Committee meeting

**ii. Compliance**

1. 21-22 Student and Family Handbooks

**iii. Educational Program**

1. Bright Star Schools Independent Study Board Policy

**iv. Governance**

1. Re-approval of 21-22 board calendar



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2. Remote work policy

**v. Finance**

1. 2020-21 Unaudited Actuals
2. BOT grant to RKES for after school program services up to \$130,000

**vi. Facilities and Operations**

1. After-School All-Star contracts
2. Technology purchases up to \$550,000 for Independent Study Program for all Bright Star Schools across all schools
3. Change orders for board approved facility projects
  - a. Lafayette Building
  - b. BSSCA Deck Project
4. iReady and Professional Development Contract Approval

Robin Elledge made the motion to approve, Jen Cole seconded; the motion passed unanimously with the following vote:

Board Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Not Present
Stephen Green	X			
Larry Klein				X
George Leftwich	X			
Lois Levy	X			
James McGrath	x			
Andrew Murr	X			
Andrew Wang	x			
Louisa Wee	X			
Robin Elledge	x			
Marisol León	X			
Dora Dome	X			
Jennifer Cole	X			
TOTAL	11	0	0	1
Motion Carries? YES or NO	YES			

**9. Adjourn Meeting:** Lois Levy made the motion to adjourn, Marisol León seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

*Andrew Murr*

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Andrew Murr, Board Chair

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*Laura Reed*

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Laura Reed, Recording Secretary