



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 2, 2017**

Location 1: 6100 Carmelita Ave, Huntington Park, CA

Location 2: 2540 East 58<sup>th</sup> St, Huntington Park, CA

Location 3: 5901 E. Slauson Avenue, Commerce, CA

Meeting Conference Line:1-415-655-0381 Passcode:366-576-658#

I.	<p><b>Public Business Meeting</b>  <b>Board Members Present:</b> Jonathan Garfinkel, Beth Hunkapiller, Warren Felson, Jim Boyd, Joaquin Torres, Nisa Frank, Kay Hong and Leslie Hume were present in Location 2 in Huntington Park, CA.  <b>Staff Present:</b> Carolyn Hack, Delphine Sherman, Mary Cha-Caswell, Esmeralda Loera, Bess Kennedy and Kate Ford were present in Location 2 in Huntington Park, CA.  <b>Call to Order:</b> The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Garfinkel at 9:10am. Quorum for the meeting was confirmed.</p>
II.	<p><b>Changes to the Agenda:</b> There were no changes to the agenda.</p>
III.	<p><b>Public Comments Not on the Agenda:</b> There were no public comments.</p>
IV.	<p><b>Chairperson and CEO Comments:</b> There were no CEO comments.</p>
V.	<p><b>Discussion, Action Items and Reports</b></p>
A.	<p>Introduction and Welcome to the Los Angeles Region: Kate Ford welcomed the Board of Directors to the Los Angeles Region. Lilliana Garcia, Principal of Aspire Antonio Maria Lugo Academy, presented an overview of the school with a focus on the English Language Learner statistics.</p>
B.	<p>School Visit at Aspire Antonio Maria Lugo Academy: Aspire Board of Directors and Leadership team visited various classrooms and had a chance to see teaching lessons geared toward English Language Learners. Board interacted with teachers and students.</p>
C.	<p>Travel to School Second School Visit: Aspire Board of Directors and Leadership team traveled to second school.</p>
D.	<p>School Visit at Aspire Ollin University Preparatory Academy: Jennifer Garcia, Principal of Aspire Ollin, discussed the strategies she uses to lead her high performing school. She presented on the importance of passionate educators and their important role in student success. The Board of Directors had the opportunity to visit some of the classrooms. The visit ended with a panel presentation from Ollin's staff, students and parents. All constituents expressed their great satisfaction with being part of Ollin's community.</p>
E.	<p>Travel to Los Angeles Regional Office and Lunch: The Aspire Board of Directors and Leadership team traveled to the Los Angeles Regional Office.</p>
F.	<p>Panel Discussion re Education Reform, the Charter Community, and the Political Climate in Los Angeles: Russ Altenburg, Myrna Castrejon, Emilio Pack, Ana Ponce and Ref Rodriguez talked about their school experience growing up and the road that they took in order to be in the positions they are in today. They all expressed the difficulties of navigating various school systems. Some spoke about students not having an option of high quality and high performing schools and how charter schools offer that option.</p>
G.	<p>Discuss Critical Education Coalition Letter: Carolyn addressed concerns that were brought forward by the Critical Education Coalition ("CEC"). She also gave the Aspire Board of Directors the opportunity to discuss their initial thoughts on the letter. All members of the Board agreed that they are deeply invested in the equity work that is occurring and they are committed to continue to explore the concerns that were brought up in the letter. Carolyn outlined next steps which include inviting CEC members and Board members to set up meetings and further discuss and collaborate.</p>
VI.	<p><b>Adjournment:</b> The meeting adjourned at 3:07pm.</p>



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Friday, November 3, 2017**

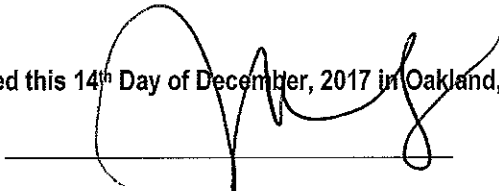
Location 1: 5901 E. Slauson Avenue, Commerce, CA

Meeting Conference Line:1-415-655-0381 Passcode:366-576-658#

I.	<p><b>Public Business Meeting</b>  <b>Board Members Present:</b> Jonathan Garfinkel, Beth Hunkapiller, Warren Felson, Jim Boyd, Joaquin Torres, Nisa Frank, Kay Hong and Leslie Hume were present in Location 1 in Commerce, CA.  <b>Staff Present:</b> Carolyn Hack, Delphine Sherman, Mary Cha-Caswell, Esmeralda Loera, Bess Kennedy and Kate Ford were present in Location 1 in Commerce, CA.  <b>Call to Order:</b> The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Garfinkel at 8:30am. Quorum for the meeting was confirmed.</p>
II.	<p><b>Changes to the Agenda:</b> There were no changes to the agenda.</p>
III.	<p><b>Public Comments Not on the Agenda:</b> There were no public comments.</p>
IV.	<p><b>Chairperson and CEO Comments:</b> There were no Chairperson or CEO comments.</p>
V.	<p><b>Discussion, Action Items and Reports</b></p>
A.	<p>Table Talk with Los Angeles Passion Project Teachers: The Aspire Board of Directors and Leadership team met with a number of teachers who are part of the Los Angeles Passion Project, a grant funded initiative which enables master teachers to explore a passion project of their choice. The Aspire Board of Directors had the opportunity to hear teachers talk about their passion projects and how the projects are impacting their teaching.</p>
B.	<p>Board Reflection of Los Angeles Retreat: The Aspire Board of Directors reflected on the retreat. Some highlights included; site visits, English learning as a key for student growth and success, meeting and getting to know teachers during site visits and panels, leadership at the school level, student panel speaking about the support they received from Aspire and interaction with Principals.</p>
C.	<p>Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Board Policy: Michelle presented the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Board Policy, stating that the policy is related to the rights and protections afforded to transgender and gender non-conforming students at all Aspire Public Schools. The policy also includes a mandate for Aspire to update our school based policy and practice guide.</p> <p>Beth moved to approve the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Board Policy, Jim seconded; unanimously approved. Approval: Yes:8 – Jonathan Garfinkel, Beth Hunkapiller, Warren Felson, Jim Boyd, Joaquin Torres, Nisa Frank, Kay Hong, Leslie Hume; No: 0.</p>
D.	<p>CalPERS Participation: Delphine presented on CalPERS retirement program participation and funding challenges and asked for approval to explore the opportunity to withdraw from CalPERS. She highlighted that this approval is only exploratory.</p> <p>Kay moved to approve the CalPERS Participation resolution, Joaquin seconded; unanimously approved. Approval: Yes:8 – Jonathan Garfinkel, Beth Hunkapiller, Warren Felson, Jim Boyd, Joaquin Torres, Nisa Frank, Kay Hong, Leslie Hume; No: 0.</p>
E.	<p>Q1 Financial Report: Delphine presented the Q1 Financial Report noting that in most regions enrollment grew and there was an increase in state funding. She asked the Board to approve the Q1 Financial Report.</p>

	Kay moved to approve the Q1 Financial Report, Leslie seconded; unanimously approved. Approval: Yes:8 – Jonathan Garfinkel, Beth Hunkapiller, Warren Felson, Jim Boyd, Joaquin Torres, Nisa Frank, Kay Hong, Leslie Hume; No: 0.
F.	Talent Point of Departure: Kara presented on the current state of Talent across Aspire. She also presented on the plan to develop a People Strategy as part of AspireForward and asked the Aspire Board of Directors to provide input for the 5-year People Strategy.
G.	Advancement Update: Bess presented Advancement updates. She updated the Board on the progress towards the fundraising goals. She also encouraged the Board to participate in the Annual Appeal.
H.	Project and Budget Approval for Aspire Langston Hughes Academy (LHA) / Aspire Port City Academy (PCA) and Aspire River Oaks Charter School (ROCS) Campus Expansion Projects: Delphine presented on the need for these two capital improvement projects. Delphine asked for the Board of Directors, to delegate approval to the Executive and Compensation Committee in December for the budgets and the allocation of funds for both expansion projects.  Jim moved to approve the campus expansion project, Joaquin seconded; unanimously approved. Approval: Yes:8 – Jonathan Garfinkel, Beth Hunkapiller, Warren Felson, Jim Boyd, Joaquin Torres, Nisa Frank, Kay Hong, Leslie Hume; No: 0.
I.	Conflicts of Interest Code Policy Update and Adoption: Delphine presented the proposed revision of the Conflict of Interest Policy which states that the Aspire Board of Directors would need to provide more expansive public disclosure reporting on sources of income and property ownership according to the updated code. The Board asked to come back to this agenda item as they would like more clarification on the implications of this updated policy. No vote was taken on this item.
J.	Appointment of Mala Batra as Board Secretary: Jonathan asked to approve the nomination of Mala Batra as Board Secretary. Beth moved to approve the Appointment of Mala Batra as Board Secretary, Leslie seconded; unanimously approved. Approval: Yes:8 – Jonathan Garfinkel, Beth Hunkapiller, Warren Felson, Jim Boyd, Joaquin Torres, Nisa Frank, Kay Hong, Leslie Hume; No: 0.
VI.	<b>Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:07pm.</b>

Approved this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of December, 2017 in Oakland, CA.




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Mala Batra, Board Secretary