**Advocates for Academic Excellence in Education, Inc.**

**(Benjamin Franklin High School)**

**Regular Board of Directors Meeting**

July 28, 2016 at 4:00 PM

Benjamin Franklin High School Student Center

1. **Call to Order**: 4:09 pm
2. **Roll Call**: Daniel Schenck, P.E. ’94, Carlos Zervigon, Les Alexander, Todd Slack, Mark Baum ’77, Maureen Shuh, M.D., Ingrid Labat, M.D. ’87, Richard Ireland

Excused: Alea Cot, Duris Holmes ’80, Saundra Levy ’65, Dr. John Nicklow, and Gary Ostroske

1. **Approval of Agenda**: Motion made to approve, seconded, and passed.
2. **Approval of Minutes from June 23, 2016:** Minutes were circulated and there were no comments. Motion made to approve, seconded, and passed unanimously.
3. **Information/Discussion**

**a. Welcome Dr. Pat Widhalm** (Mr. Alexander): The board and community formally welcomed Dr. Widhalm as the new Head of School. Appreciation was given for the extra time Dr. Widhalm has spent to make sure the transition was smooth.

**b. Welcome Alea Cot, Daniel Schenck ’94, Maureen Shuh, M.D., and Richard Ireland to the AAEE Board** (Mr. Alexander): New board members were formally welcomed and acknowledged in their service to the school.

**c. Facilities Needs Analysis and Master Facilities Plan RFQ** (Mr. Baum): Mr. Baum advised the Board that the Request for Qualifications for the Needs Assessment and Facilities Master Plan will be sent to architectural firms in the next few weeks. He reviewed the process that once a firm is selected, it will take roughly 3-4 months for the consultants to gather the information from stakeholders to design the plan.

1. **Head of School Monthly Report** (Dr. Widhalm):Dr. Widhalmcommented that the Facilities Master Plan should connect to the Strategic Plan conducted two years ago. He announced various upcoming events including the Alumni Volleyball Tournament. Dr. Widhalm shared details of the New Student Orientation events and goals, and acknowledged the work of Ms. Jenkins, Dr. Hightower, and Mr. Parauka in this process. He then called on Mr. Ferris to highlight the recently released AP results. Mr. Ferris provided comparative information to illustrate a 5% increase in tests taken (with only a 1% increase in student enrollment), the 3.6 average score is similar to prior years, 24% of test-takers had a Free/Reduced status (30% of the student body qualify as Free/Reduced lunch status), and the acknowledged the teachers’ roles with respect to the improvements in Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Physics, and English Literature scores. Dr. Widhalm called on Ms. Bent to provide highlights of the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Award received by Franklin. She noted that Franklin was one very few school to have students attend the ceremony and that Franklin appeared to be the only school in which students were key in writing the application. Dr. Widhalm provided updates relative to the new offices under construction in the counseling suite and the installation of the new stage curtains in the auditorium. He continued by allowing Mr. Lapushin to provide details of the $100,000 spent to significantly improve wi-fi access, to purchase a more robust filtering and monitoring system, and new laptops for faculty. This money was spent using some of the surplus and is a direct investment in the classroom. Dr. Widhalm called on Ms. Jenkins for a brief summary relative to admissions. She provided a handout that detailed the full demographic information of the incoming students (94 schools, 9 from out of state and 3 from other countries) and anticipated the total enrollment at 960 for the start of school. Mr. Jackson commented that work is expected to repair existing lockers and add lockers so each student can be provided a locker at the start of the school year. Dr. Widhalm concluded by providing a personnel update. He indicated the 4th counselor and 3 teachers were hired; the school’s nurse will become a full-time nurse to incorporate wellness programs for students; a new position for main office/business support has been posted; and announced that the SpEd Coordinator/English teacher, Katie Hou, will be leaving to take a position at another school, so her position has come available.
2. **CFO Monthly Report (Bent)**: Ms. Bent explained the Finance Committee reviewed the financials, and noted the technology and other end-of-year expenditures have not yet been posted, but anticipated a healthy net income based on the receipt of non-budgeted deferred revenue received from Orleans Parish and the conservative budgeting model that has been utilized for the past several years. A discussion of enrollment and the admissions process with respect to the testing process and retention occurred that Ms. Jenkins, Mr. Ferris and Mr. Jackson gave relative insight.
3. **Action**

**a.** **Appointment of Carlos Zervigon, Duris Holmes and Les Alexander to the Executive Committee**: Motion made to approve, second, and no discussion. This passed unanimously.

**b. Appointment of Alea Cot as chairwoman of the Development Committee**: Motion made to approve, second, and no discussion. This passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** 5:15pm