REGULAR MEETING
EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AUTHORITY

__ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

_X_ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date: February 9, 2012
Time: 2:00pm
Location: Wayne County Community College,
Northwest Campus Welcome Center
8200 W. Outer Drive
Detroit, MI 48219

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Roy Roberts at 2:00pm. Chairperson Roberts began by thanking Wayne County Community College for graciously hosting the EAA Board Meeting. He also welcomed newly sworn-in Board Member Dr. Jann Joseph, appointed by Eastern Michigan University to take the seat of former member James Stapleton, who resigned in early December. Finally, he reminded the Board and public that this meeting was a joint meeting of the EAA Board and Executive Committee.

II. Roll Call

Chairperson Roberts asked Melissa Hamann to call the roll of the Board of Directors.

Board Member Attendance:

Roy Roberts, Chairperson	☒Present	☐Absent
Carol Goss, Vice Chairperson	☒Present	☐Absent
Judith Kaye Berry, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
Sharlonda Buckman, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
Michael Duggan, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
Rev. Dr. Joseph R. Jordan*, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
Jann Joseph, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
Michael Morris*, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
Mark Murray, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
William Pickard, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
Shirley Stancato, Director	☒Present	☐Absent

Member Joseph joined the meeting by phone.
*Member Jordan joined the meeting in progress at 2:25pm and Member Morris joined the meeting in progress by phone at 3:05pm.

A quorum of the EAA Board was determined.

Chairperson Roberts then asked Melissa Hamann to call the roll of the EAA Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Attendance:

Roy Roberts, Chairperson	☒Present	☐Absent
Michael Duggan, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
Michael Morris*, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
Mark Murray, Director	☒Present	☐Absent
William Pickard, Director	☒Present	☐Absent

*Member Morris joined the meeting in progress by phone at 3:05pm.

A quorum of the EAA Executive Committee was determined.

III. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Roberts asked whether there were any suggested changes to the joint meeting agenda.
Chairperson Roberts then asked for a motion to approve the agenda.
Motion: Member Murray
Support: Member Stancato
Ayes: 9 *Nays: 0*

The motion was carried.

IV. Chancellor Updates

The Chancellor presented a short video on the Education Achievement Authority's work, meant to accompany and reinforce the broader strategic plan. The video articulated the challenges we face in public education, the outdated practices that persist, and the EAA's suggestions for 21st century teaching and learning. The Chancellor remarked that many of the EAA's components for 21st century teaching and learning have been informed by the 12 statewide community planning meetings held over the past couple of months.

The Chancellor introduced Tyrone Winfrey, who provided an overview of the Super Youth Summit, held this past weekend in Lansing at Michigan State University with 80 students statewide. The students shared their core beliefs, placed value on components of 21st century teaching and learning, and posed a number of questions for the EAA team to answer during its roll-out.

The Chancellor then introduced Dr. MiUndrae Prince, who indicated that a draft Standard Operating Procedures Manual had recently been provided to the Board for review and comment. He requested that the EAA Board provide feedback by February 23, and indicated that final approval would be added to the next meeting agenda.

V. Old Business

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting

Chairperson Roberts asked for a motion to approve the EAA Board meeting minutes from the November 10, 2011 board meeting.

Motion: Member Jordan
Support: Member Stancato
Ayes: 10 *Nays: 0*

The motion was carried.

b) Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 20, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting

Chairperson Roberts then asked for a motion to approve the EAA Executive Committee meeting minutes from the December 20, 2011 board meeting, and asked that only Executive Committee members vote on this item.

Motion: Member Murray
Support: Member Pickard
Ayes: 4 *Nays: 0*

The motion was carried.

VI. New Business

Chairperson Roberts remarked that this meeting was designed as an informational session for the EAA Board and Executive Committee. The discussion of specific schools to move to the EAA for the Fall of 2012 will be delayed until the next meeting; however, Mr. Roberts did indicate the intention of both DPS and EAA to move 15 historically low-performing schools to the EAA where they will be wrapped in additional resources and given greater autonomy to succeed. Among the list of Persistently Lowest Achieving (PLA) schools under consideration for this move, the seven schools in Detroit Public Schools that were new to the list this year will be excluded from consideration in this year and will remain in Detroit Public Schools. Those schools are: Bow, Carstens, Garvey, Palmer Park, Priest, Pulaski, and Wilkins. Chairperson Roberts remarked that the EAA team is going through an extensive process to identify the appropriate schools for transfer to the EAA and expect to be in a position to propose a list of schools to the EAA Board in mid March.

a) Draft EAA Strategic Plan

Chancellor Covington indicated that the Draft EAA Strategic Plan was based on input collected from 12 strategic planning forums involving 800 participants across the state, from the Super Youth Leadership Summit, from state and national experts, from consultation with similar districts, such as the Recovery School District of New Orleans, the Achievement District of Tennessee and the Denver and Chicago Public School districts. A final Strategic Plan will be presented to the EAA Board for approval at the next meeting.

Based on feedback collected, participants placed the greatest value on the following design elements for 21st century teaching and learning:

- Student centered learning/Time as a variable
- Project-based learning/real world applications
- Teacher as facilitator
- Global partnerships/becoming globally competitive
- Parent involvement
- College/career readiness

The EAA strategic plan includes the following five goals.

Goal 1: The EAA of Michigan will provide its contract and charter schools with total flexibility and autonomy for school operations, curriculum design, teaching methodology and strategies, and other applicable decision making authority to achieve statistically significant increases in measurable student academic achievement as determined by the EAA of Michigan and approved by its governing board.

Goal 2: All students enrolled in the EAA of Michigan's member schools will successfully complete their secondary school experience college, career, and workforce ready.

Goal 3: To ensure that students receive the best education possible, the EAA of Michigan will provide teachers and school leaders with individualized, on-demand professional development in both content and pedagogy.

Goal 4: The EAA of Michigan will provide its member schools with total flexibility and autonomy for establishing a culture of universal support services for students and parents.

Goal 5: The EAA of Michigan will focus greater than 90% of funding directly at the local school level.

b) Draft EAA Financial Plan

Dr. Rebecca Lee-Gwin provided a brief overview of the Draft EAA Financial Plan and remarked that a final EAA Financial Plan will be presented to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

Key points were as follows:

- Funding of $879K has been received to date. Fundraising efforts continue.
- Of funding received, EAA has expended $635K through the end of January.
- Total start up costs for year 1 are anticipated to be $24.7 Million, with an additional $10.3 Million in year 2, for a total two year start-up cost of $35 Million. The greatest areas of need are human capital ($5.5 Million) and technology infrastructure ($8.7 Million).

Member Pickard asked for the implied number of schools and students in these calculations. Dr. Lee-Gwin responded that the estimates factored in 15 schools in year 1 and approximately 12,000 students. She remarked that when state and federal funds are factored in, a total estimate of per pupil spending is $11K.

Member Duggan asked what technology investments will be made in classrooms. The EAA team indicated that they are attempting to achieve a 1:1 student to notebook ratio, although local schools will have the autonomy in this area. Additionally, a technology platform with curricular resources will be available.

Member Jordan asked what sort of technical access there would be to EAA schools. Dr. Mary Esselman responded that the technology platform allows for "anywhere, anytime" access by parents, students, and teachers.

Member Goss asked how this start-up budget compared to other similar districts. Dr. Lee-Gwin indicated that EAA has consulted with the Achievement District of Tennessee and budgets were quite similar. Member Berry remarked that the budget was right on target and that web-driven technology allows the EAA technology to be as maintenance free as possible.

Member Stancato asked for clarification on the charter, contract, and university school classifications within EAA. Dr. Covington responded that all three models would be employed. Charter schools would be granted the greatest autonomy, charter schools would entail partnerships with entities to manage the schools and be given a large degree of autonomy, and university run schools would be those schools directly run by the EAA team, employing a managed instruction model.

Member Buckman asked how many teachers were estimated for the EAA in year 1 and also for clarification on how special education would be approached. Dr. Lee-Gwin responded that EAA estimates include roughly 600 teachers. Dr. Covington remarked that local schools would have autonomy to make changes to their staffing models. Dr. Goodloe-Johnson indicated that after schools to move to the EAA are identified, a thorough audit of special education would be undertaken to assess programs currently in place and make recommendations moving forward.

Member Buckman asked what metrics the EAA would align with – MEAP, NAEP, or common core?
Dr. Esselman responded that the EAA would use status and growth measures from common norm-referenced test that the entire city is considering adopting. This test would allow students to be assessed relative to college readiness. Finally, performance tasks would be aligned to common core.

Member Jordan asked how the EAA is approaching the issue of violence in schools. Dr. Covington remarked that safety is incorporated in the strategic plan, with strategies including a restructuring of the student code of conduct, partnerships with local law enforcement to develop plans and staffing strategies, and setting a high level of expectation for school leaders, staff, and students to reduce incidents in schools.

c) Feedback from Parent Sessions Facilitated by EAA and Detroit Parent Network

Member Buckman provided an overview of parent input collected on the EAA through three different parent sessions: a session in Southwest Detroit (175 parents), a session in the Osborn community (125 parents), and a conversation and survey with parents who attended the Annual Breakfast (600 parents). In summary, parents in all three meetings wanted the same things for their children: schools that work, schools that are safe and clean, schools that are diverse, and schools that provide services for students and their families. A full summary of parental feedback from these sessions can be found at:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/eas/EAA_DPN_376278_7.pdf

d) Proposed Criteria for Selection of Schools to Move to EAA for 2012-2013 School Year

Dr. Mary Esselman provided an overview of school scorecards that have been created for all Persistently Low Achieving (PLA) schools in Detroit. Data was gathered from DPS, MDE, and Wayne RESA to support this analysis. Four categories are included in the scorecard: Facilities, Demographics, Student Performance, and Student Population. School performance in each area was ranked relative to the other PLA schools and points assigned accordingly. The intent of the EAA is for those schools with the greatest need to move to the EAA for

the fall of 2012.

Member Murray remarked that the new cut score paints a very different picture of performance for most schools, and that the relative ranking among PLA schools can be a bit deceptive (i.e., how can a school with 5% of students achieving proficiency be given four stars?).

VII. Other Business

Member Berry asked whether EAA will participate in schools of choice and asked for clarification on how the EAA will translate their student-centered learning focus without grade levels (mastery learning) to the transcripts that school districts and colleges will need to see (Carnegie units). Chairperson Roberts remarked that the EAA will participate in schools of choice. Dr. Covington indicated that EAA will do interpretations of student transcripts from mastery learning to Carnegie units and will consult with university partners early to ensure that this is handled smoothly.

VIII. Public Comment

The following individuals made public comments.

Judy Summers – Ms. Summers sought clarification about whether EAA's scope for year 1 was Detroit only. Chairperson Roberts responded that yes, this effort will begin in Detroit.

Sherry Gay-Dagnogo – Ms. Gay-Dagnogo wanted to know how individualized learning plans for all students will work, whether EAA is still planning to take on PLA schools throughout the state, and how this effort impacts DFT. Dr. Covington responded that all students will be assessed throughout the year to track and differentiate instruction to students and support individualized learning plans. Chairperson Roberts remarked that no decision about the teachers' contract had been made, but that it is the intent for the EAA to select its leaders and teachers.

John Lauve – Mr. Lauve stated that the EAA should be piloting its work in schools now, that it must address the issue of dropouts across the state (30K/year), that it must not create another ineffective bureaucracy, and that it should move out of the Cadillac Place building and locate within a school.

Verna Brocks – Ms. Brocks appreciated the EAA's application of an individualized education plan for all students and asked that a career plan and personal curriculum be added as well. She requested that the EAA work on transition plans for all schools to move to the EAA.

Annie Carter – Ms. Carter wanted to know whether there was a mandate for students in DPS schools to go to EAA when schools transfer. She also wanted clarification on the process for parent grievances. Dr. Covington responded that there would be no such mandate.

Brittany Sharpley – Ms. Sharpley, a junior at Renaissance High School, expressed concern that DPS is turning into a charter district, that teacher-student ratios could not be supported, and that youth have not been involved in decision making. Chairperson Roberts clarified that this meeting is for the statewide EAA of Michigan, and not Detroit Public Schools.

Yvette Sharpley – Ms. Sharpley expressed concern that Detroit Public Schools is planning to close Ludington Middle Magnet. Mr. Roberts remarked that the program is not closing, but is relocating to another building.

Jeannine Gant – Ms. Gant, Executive Director of Playworks, expressed interest in working with the EAA to improve school safety.

Scott Holiday – Mr. Holiday wanted to know how Detroit and its citizens would be compensated for the transfer of city property into state stewardship. Chairperson Roberts remarked that no transfer of property would be made and that EAA will maintain responsibility for its pro rata share of the debt burden.

Helen Moore – Ms. Moore indicated that Detroit is being used as an experiment and that the efforts of the EAA is only going to decrease the number of students attending a Detroit school.

Charles King – Mr. King expressed his concern as a parent about the grading system, particularly as to how EAA transcripts would be accepted by universities.

Gloria Davis – Ms. Davis commended the alternative approach taken by the EAA but wanted to know how EAA would ensure that all students are performing at high levels.

Kelvin Wheeler – Mr. Wheeler commended the efforts of the EAA Board and reminded them of their great responsibility in their role as Board Members. He remarked that we all need to be accountable for the success of our students.

Mr. Roberts thanked all individuals for their comments.

IX. Adjournment

Chairperson Roberts asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion: Member Murray

Chairperson Roberts adjourned the meeting at 4:08pm.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Secretary / Recording Secretary

2/13/12
Date

Approved by the Authority Board,

Secretary / Recording Secretary

Date