

**Minutes of February 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 Board Retreat of the Board of Directors of West Houston Charter Alliance, Inc.**

Notice is hereby given that a Board Retreat of the Board of Directors of West Houston Charter Alliance, Inc. Will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2009 From 9 AM until 12 PM, at Prosperity Bank 23310 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy, Texas 77494.

**AGENDA**

1. Meeting called to order at 9:06 am and establishment of a quorum. All Board members present except Ms. Edna Green. Additional attendees included: Sonia Hall, Terry, Amy Tisdale, Karla Duplichan, Kim Breedlove, Gretchen Hempeh, Margaret Hori, Monique Conner, Paulina Stagg and Mrs. Dwyer.
2. Review, discuss and approve School Audit. Mr. Thom Polvogt made the motion to approve, Ms. Judith Paul seconded – Motion passed.
3. Background of WHCS choice of Core Curriculum provided by Mr. David Dwyer. Former Board called for classical education which has not been fully implemented at this time. Provides opportunity to enhance school.  
9:09 am Edna Green arrived.
4. Presentation by Curriculum Enrichment Committee on “What is a Classical Education” and how it compares to other “traditional” curriculums. Three presentations made: 1. Ms. Sonya Hall will provide a description of a classical education. 2. Ms. Heather Dwyer will discuss why we want to continue a classical education and how this format differs from Katy Independent School District. Ms. Lucina Botonds will discuss next steps and how core curriculum can be executed at WHCS.
  - a. Exercise – Board wrote down ideas of classical education.
  - b. Resources – Board received copies of What is a Classical Education?
  - c. Exercise – Logic Exercise – example of how this helps students analyze information and arrange facts into an argument.
  - d. Rhetoric – The art of communicating.
  - e. Discussion of other resources used for classical education.
  - f. Classical education – why? Typical method of teaching prior to 1850. The current method of teaching is teaching how to do a job. Classical education teaches people to think. Every child deserves this type of education.

10:09 am Adjourn for a break

10:16 am Meeting resumed

- g. Determination – school using core knowledge curriculum, some gaps across the curriculum. Next steps:
  - i. educate all teachers on classical curriculum;
  - ii. educate the parents on classical curriculum;
  - iii. define the WHCS way (i.e. Shurley Grammar);
  - iv. provide additional training to teachers as needed; and
  - v. track students who have left the school and their successes.

5. Board discussion on vision for school: near and long term objectives. Need to determine priorities (i.e. debt reduction, financial investment, equipment resources and staff.) Discussed curriculum and training for staff. Brainstorming on ideas and priorities for school. Short term priorities discussed: hiring standards, spelling, all staff indoctrinated in classic curriculum.
6. Open forum for Board on areas of concern. Discussed past use of hiring board – two teachers, Principal and 1 board member. Ms. Tzannis recommended use of behavioral questions. Requested synopsis of movement of school (enhancement for School Board). At Orientation provide information on What is Classical Curriculum. Discussion of CPR/ First Aid Training for all Staff. Discuss policies on assemblies. Discussed need to change March meeting date as scheduled during school Spring Break.
7. Adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Polvogt and seconded by Ms. Botonds.

**Additional Closed or Executive Session Authority**

If during the course of the Board meeting covered by this Notice, the Board should determine that a closed or executive session of the Board should be held or is required in relation to any item included in this Notice, then such closed or executive meeting of session as authorized by Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.076, 551.0785, 551.082, 551.0821, 551.083, and 551.084 of the Texas Government Code ( the Open Meetings Act) will be held by the Board at that date, hour and place given in this notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this Notice as the Board may conveniently meet in such closed or executive session.

Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the Board with regard to any matter considered in such closed or executive session, then such final action, final decision, or final vote shall be at either: (a) The open meeting covered by this Notice upon the reconvening of this public meeting, or (b) A subsequent public meeting of the Board upon Notice thereof, as the Board shall determine.

The items listed in this notice may be considered in any order at the discretion of the Board of Directors or the Board President, items listed for closed session discussion may be discussed in open session, and items listed in this notice may be tabled and considered at a subsequent public meeting of the Board of Directors upon proper notice.

**Certificate of posting or Giving of Notice**

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2009, at 1 p.m. this Notice was posted on a bulletin board or other conspicuous location at a place convenient to the public at the West Houston Charter School, 5618 Eleventh Street, Katy, Texas 77493-1971 and was readily accessible to the general public at all times.

Michelle Tzannis  
Secretary  
**West Houston Charter Alliance, Inc.**