

Brillante Academy Network

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

February 24, 2023

Agenda	Discussion		Action
Welcome and Call to Order	Dan West	Present via Zoom	Meeting called to order by Dan West- Brillante Board Chair at 3:00 pm.
	John Escamilla	Present	
	Maggie Barreiro	Present	
	Victor Saenz	Present via Zoom	
	Alfredo Villalobos	Present	
	Aaron Brenner	Present	
	Ana Karen Salinas	Present	
	Dulce Salinas	Present	
	Katie Hernandez Akers	Absent	
	Janis De Luna	Present	
Cyda Peralez (public visitor/guest)	Present via Zoom		
Quorum Met	Yes		

<p>Review & Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Minutes reviewed by board members. Minutes from December 9th were revisited and approved.</p>	<p>Alfredo Villalobos motioned to approve minutes and Maggie Barreiro seconded. All were in favor.</p>
<p>Reading of Brillante Mission</p>	<p>Our Mission: <i>Brillante Academy, a dual language school in the classical tradition, helps students to grow intellectually, socially and physically into young men and women of good character and spirit, and to be prepared for excellence in high school, college and beyond.</i></p> <p>Our Root Beliefs: Every child possesses inherent dignity & infinite potential. Parents are the first educators. Learning and excelling in two Languages (English and Spanish) builds bridges, opens doors, strengthens minds. Truth, Goodness and Beauty Cultivate the mind, body, and spirit of every child.</p> <p>Our Core Virtues: At Brillante Academy we know that good character equals happiness that lasts across our school community; we commit to teaching and living the following virtues: Wisdom, Courage, Self-Control, Justice</p> <p>Our Goals: Our goal is for Brillante students to lead lives of excellence, virtue, purpose and impact. We will accomplish this through the best instructional practices we have tested across the country. A longer school day and year, technology-based blended learning to deliver individualized instruction, a dual language immersion program, with intensive support and coaching of teachers and combining this with a robust character education program, centered around four core virtues. By setting high expectations for our students, they will grow in character and virtues every day.</p>	<p>Read by Ms. Maggie Barreiro</p>
<p>Items for Vote</p>	<p>Superintendent and Founder Aaron Brenner spoke about filing an expansion amendment to TEA by March 1st in order to add Prekindergarten 3 to Brillante’s approved grade levels of Prekindergarten 4, Kindergarten and First Grade for the official start of its campus in August of 2023. It was determined that Brillante Academy would need to submit a waiver, due to lack of current compliance with <u>19 TAC §1033 (b)(9)(A)(viii)</u>, in addition to the Expansion Amendment. The Brillante Board of Directors approved a resolution authorizing Superintendent Brenner to submit a waiver of <u>19 TAC 102.1003</u> & also authorized Superintendent Brenner to submit an expansion amendment.</p>	<p>Mr. John Escamilla moved to approve the resolution requesting the waiver as well as authorizing the submission of an expansion amendment. Mr. Dan West seconded the motion. All were in favor.</p>

<p>Ms. Dulce Salinas (Parent Engagement Manager/Student Recruiter)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goal of Brillante is to have 500 students, while we currently have 385. March 6th is the deadline for reaching this goal. We have a goal of 150 student applicants for PK3. We have not made it official yet, as we are pending approval by TEA of a waiver and expansion amendment to add PK3. She spoke of Schola, where the cost per lead has been low. The parents are ready to apply and can go through this platform to complete student applications. We have powered up with Families Empowered. They inform parents with the choices that they have. They are doing a calling campaign for us in which they reach all parents that have yet to answer our previous calls and messages. 	<p>Board Input: Dan asked if we could add a column to delineate capacity per grade level (its increase or decrease).</p>
<p>Ms. Ana Karen (Founding School Leader)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed February 2023 Talent Update There are different criteria that Brillante is looking into to ensure that the curriculum is rigorous and meets the needs of our students. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design principle People-Centered Clear Accessible and Equitable Purposeful Rooted in Best Practice She reviewed the selection competencies in detail that are being looked at when we are reviewing the candidates. Brillante questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is our Goal? What are we looking for in the personalities and content level of our candidates? Teachers will be interviewed the week of the 27th. After holding interviews for the Dean of Instruction, Ms. Ana Karen Salinas announced that Ms. Liz Troncoso has been hired as a Dean of Instruction. 	<p>Board Input: Mr. Dan West asked if Brillante had a nice way to let the people know that they did not get the job. He stressed the importance of showing respect to our candidates and treating them with dignity. Are we going to have a method to let them know that they didn't get the seat? Mrs. Ana Karen and Mr. Brenner shared that they, as interviewers, asked the candidates for feedback in Brillante's process of interviewing. They answered that there would be a message thanking all candidates for their interview participation and for considering Brillante as their next place of service.</p>

<p>Janis De Luna (Director of Operations)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Janis shared information on the status of the renovations taking place on the property. She mentioned that there are a few steps needed before the demolition of the main office begins. • Pictures were shared to show the progress made at the Warehouse section of the property. All concrete slabs have been removed, and the property has been staked by AEP for power. • The original shop belonging to Mission Paving was demolished. • Trees have been removed on the West side of the property, leaving room for the new parking lot that will be constructed there. • The Fellows' home also had trees removed so that AEP could work in the area as well as to make way for the new turning lane that will be added in the future to alleviate traffic congestion from Los Ebanos Road. • Transportation/Bus quotes were shared for future discussion. • Janis De Luna also shared the bid selections that were made for the new internet provider and service installation crew. • She reported the status of the lunch application with TX-UNPS. The application is almost complete. Brillante is waiting for the official enrollment in order to determine which students qualify for free or reduced lunch. 	
<p>Welcome Guests</p>	<p>Book Report, Brillante's payroll and budget software consultants presented the Executive Summary, YTD Budget to Actuals, Statement of Activities, and Balance Sheet to the Board. Book Report walked the Board through each and explained how they arrived at numbers.</p>	<p>Input from the Board: Board reviewed the numbers and questioned as to why there was a loss of revenue in the first few years, particularly if we were growing by a grade level. It was explained that charters should have a positive variance by year 5. It is expected that in the first three years, you will see a deficit.</p>
<p>Legal Committee Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Escamilla presented on the CMO Agreement. He explains that he and Dan West conferred with Tommy Fuller because he has worked with charter schools before. The main point was for Brillante to retain authority and control in fiscal matters. The CMO memorializes what Seton's role will be in providing resources, 	

	<p>guidance, institutional support for Brillante. The agreement tells what Seton's role will be in reference to Brillante. He spoke of provisions in which Brillante can ask for reports from Seton as long as Brillante gives them 30 days notice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiscal decisions, special needs students, make sure that we have the authorization to approve expenditures without Seton making choices without Brillante's permission 	
Board Updates	<p>Aaron Brenner asked for assistance from the Board to see if they had any recommendations for future Board members. He shared that we needed another Valley Board member to meet quorum in the future in case of any emergencies where someone is not able to fly down. We could make the Board more flexible.</p>	
Public Comments	<p>One community visitor was logged in and had no questions.</p>	
Meeting Adjourned	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.</p>	<p>Dan called to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Alfredo Villalobos motioned to adjourn meeting at 4:45 pm. Mr. John Escamilla seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm. All Board members agreed to adjourn.</p>

