Burns Sci-Tech Charter School



#  Regular Board Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2024 - 6:00 pm Cafeteria

1. Call meeting to order. 6:01
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call: Albert Amalfitano, Damian Hall, Richard Paczkowski, Jonathon Glugover, Adam Owens, Suzanne Jarrell. Dr. Rodger Thayer – excused absence. Admin: Daniel Hargrave, Alexis Galerno, Brent Appy.
4. Approval of 1st 24-25 SY Regular Board Meeting Minutes from July 9, 2024. Motion to approve July 9th Regular Board Meeting Minutes by Mr. Hall, 2nd by Mr. Glugover. Motion passed.
5. Public Participation.
	1. Several people from the audience spoke on substitute teaching; sports programs fundraising/allocation of funds; leadership accountability; communication/building a strong team; and school governance. One person asked if the public participation could be moved to the end of the meeting instead of the beginning. *(\*editor’s note – please see Bylaws statement and Fl Sunshine Laws at the end of Draft Minutes)*
6. Reports and Discussion/Actions:
	1. Discuss Grievance Policy and Procedure – Action.
		1. Mr. Amalfitano reviewed the revised Grievance Policy and Procedure with the change from Mr. Glugover. Mr. Paczkowski said he would like further discussion on initiating and processing a grievance, since there have been recent grievances brought to him, Mr. Glugover, and Mrs. Jarrell. Mr. Amalfitano discussed having a committee for processing grievances and Mr. Glugover, Grievance Officer for the board, stated that he would like a committee of three board members. Both Mr. Paczkowski and Mr. Hall volunteered to be on the committee. Once the committee is approved, they can vote on dates and time to meet in person or on zoom. The board would like Leif Fox, IT Director, to create a mailbox for all board members to receive an email when grievances are initiated. Mr. Paczkowski said that he would create a spreadsheet of current grievances for Mr. Glugover. Motion to approve the current Grievance Policy and Procedure by Mr. Hall, 2nd by Mr. Owens. Motion passed.
	2. School Surveillance FUSUS – Discussion.
		1. Mrs. Galerno explained that FUSUS is a security system that allows Law Enforcement to monitor code red situations. Law Enforcement can monitor/assist and document if there is a cause, and create case numbers. Leif Fox, IT Director, will provide a quarterly case review.
		2. Student vaping is an issue and there are now sound and fume deterrents in areas around the high school.
	3. Edyth Bush Center for Philanthropy Membership – Discussion.
		1. Mr. Paczkowski presented board members with a flyer from the Edyth Bush Center for Philanthropy. The membership dues of $875 provide ½ off education classes for faculty. Mr. Paczkowski would like to add Edyth Bush Center for Philanthropy Membership, a non-profit, to the next board meeting agenda for action.
	4. Approve the addition of the high school and gym awning- Action
		1. Mr Hargrave said that they have received three quotes for an awning over the high school lunch area and by the 7th grade building. The board members asked questions about the materials used including aluminum beams, sizes, and color. It was stated that the tresses will be white with a metal roof. The board also asked if the quotes cover permits, all materials, and if constructing the awning will affect day-to-day activity on the campus. The board wanted to know about funds for this project and Mr. Appy said the cost of the awning was worked into the budget. Mr. Hargrave and Mrs. Galerno would like to relocate the awning to the area around the 5/6 building so that half is covered for K-6 and 7-12. Work will be done in the evenings and on weekends so that workers will not be on campus during school hours. Motion to approve the high school and elementary awning quote from Triple P Pole Setting LLC for $30,000 by Mr. Amalfitano, 2nd by Mr. Glugover. Motion passed.
	5. Approve Sick Bank Policy for SY 2024-2025- Action.
		1. Mr. Paczkowski stated that perhaps the board needs to add a board meeting in August for items brought before the board so that they can vote in a timely manner. Mr. Amalfitano asked if the policy states that you must donate time to receive time from the committee. Mrs. Galerno answered but also stated that members of the Sick Bank committee would have to meet before the end of the SY in order for revisions/issues to be brought to the board in August for the new SY. Motion to approve 2024-2025 Sick Bank Policy by Mr. Owens, 2nd by Mr. Hall. Motion passed.
	6. Approve Cafeteria roof- Action.

Mr. Appy stated that the cafeteria roof is leaking and needs to be repaired. It has been patched in the past and insurance will not cover repairs due to the age of the roof. A budget discussion followed, and work needs to be completed. Motion to repair the cafeteria roof by Mr.

Glugover, 2nd by Mr. Hall. Motion passed.

1. Principals Report:
	1. Primary Principal Report- Mrs. Galerno.
		1. *‘Start with Hello Week’* our counselors did a great job with this so that everyone found a person to meet and greet. Green Day, Open House, Soccer, V-ball, Golf, Cross County, Leader In Me have already started as a Special Areas. Also, we have Penny War, Testing, Wranglers Ball October 11th, Morning Mile and Lego Club. *(editor’s note – Wranglers Ball rescheduled for October 25 due to Hurricane Milton)*
	2. Secondary Principal Report- Mr. Hargrave.
		1. Homecoming update, two SGAs, 7th/8th and high school students have helped with Eagle Hour, Recess, Science Fair, and one group has partnered with Stetson!
2. Treasurer Report:
	1. Mr. Appy presented the board with finance and budget reports. As of August 31st, - positive 3.5 million.
3. Agenda items to consider for the next meeting.
	1. Action: Vote on Edyth Bush Center for Philanthropy Membership,
	2. Discussion on awards ceremonies, keeping students in the sports program, budgets, how to help Booster Club, vertical raises.
	3. Discussion on gaining ‘key group’ representation on the board. *(editor’s note – currently SAC interviews and scores prospective board members – see New Board Member Policy adopted 9/26/2023)*
	4. Flex schedule needs to be examined with more attention to details.
4. Board Member issues concerns/comments.
	1. Mrs. Jarrell discussed the emails she recently received. She asked when/how people should contact board members. Also, she would like to know more about the letter Mr. Glugover sent to Mr. Appy regarding issues, grievances, and financials.
	2. Mr. Amalfitano said there were misunderstandings that admin discussed in a team meeting. They settled their differences and are in agreement now.
	3. Mr. Paczkowski would like to discuss this process of inter-school conflict and communication in school. He said he would be defensive and intimidated if he received the letter that Mr. Glugover, a lawyer, sent to Mr. Appy. He recommends that the board set a meeting with the person first. Glugover said he received information from several sources and didn’t know how to address the issues, so he contacted the board attorney, Mr. Arnold, to set up a meeting with Mr. Appy. He was told he couldn’t do this because of the Sunshine Law, and he did not want to come to the board meeting and blindside Mr. Appy, so he sent him a letter to get answers. He included the whole board so that everyone knew what was in the letter to Mr. Appy and what answers he expected from him. The letter was approved by the board attorney and was not meant to be accusatory but to get answers.
	4. Mr. Paczkowski would like to have a SAC representative present during the board meetings. Mr. Amalfitano stated that a board member (Dr. Thayer) goes to the SAC meetings representing the board. There was discussion about having a teacher on the board, but Mr. Amalfitano said that teachers can participate/speak during Public Participation (#5) at meetings*. (editor’s note - No member of the Board shall be an employee, spouse or immediate family, independent contractor or otherwise compensated by Burns Science and Technology Charter School except as specifically allowed by the conflict-of-interest provisions set forth in applicable Florida and federal law – please see Bylaws and New Board Member Policy adopted 9/26/2023).*
	5. Mrs. Jarrell would like the board and admin to review the Flex Schedule in relation to the other school schedules. Mr. Amalfitano said that the Flex Schedule will be tested this year and reviewed for changes for the next SY. Mr. Paczkowski would like a committee to review the Flex Schedule and Mr. Amalfitano will work on a process for review. Mr. Owens stated that the admin team should review the Flex Schedule for this SY and then present to the board for the next SY. Mr. Amalfitano agreed and would like teachers and admin to review the Flex Schedule for issues/solutions.
	6. Mr. Owens stated that he had concerns regarding the tension and division within the admin team. He would like a review of policies and procedures to know how to proceed. He also stated that communication and support of each other will help ease the tension and he thanked teachers and staff for their feedback.
	7. Mrs. Jarrell stated that if the board is going to investigate grievances regarding the FLEX Schedule they need to know more details and should have asked more questions during the Flex schedule presentation.
	8. Mr. Amalfitano thanked the audience for coming to the meeting and speaking during Public Participation.
5. Public Announcements - Next Regular Board Meeting October 22, 2024.
6. Adjournment.

Editor’s Notes:

\*BST Bylaws:

**Article 2, 2.14 - Open Meetings**

So long as the Corporation's charter contract remains in effect, to the extent required by such laws, rules, and regulations as govern the operation of such public charter school, all meetings of the Board of Directors will be open and accessible to the public, noticed and conducted in accordance with the Florida Sunshine Act {Section 286.011, Florida Statutes). Meetings of the Board shall not be closed to the public except as specifically permitted by Florida law and with prior consultation with legal counsel. The Corporation will establish a policy governing public comment and input in accordance with Florida law.

\*FL Sunshine Law - According to Florida's Sunshine Law, the public has the right to speak at school board meetings, meaning anyone can address the board during a meeting with reasonable notice provided, as long as they follow the established rules and procedures set by the school board for public comment; essentially, the law guarantees open access to public meetings and the opportunity to be heard.

Key points about the Sunshine Law and public speaking at school board meetings:

* **Open meetings:** All school board meetings must be open to the public.
* **Reasonable notice:** The public must be given appropriate notice of meeting times and agendas.
* **Public comment period:** School boards are required to provide a designated time during meetings for public comments.
* **Rules of decorum:** Boards can establish guidelines for public speakers regarding time limits, topic relevance, and respectful conduct.