



BOARD MEETING NOTES

September 30 + October 28, 2020

Apologies for absence: [n/a]

1. Welcome

Bishop Stephens thanks everyone for their commitment to STAR Academy and for the time everyone takes to stay connected and engaged with all that STAR is doing.

2. New Storage Facility

STAR is rapidly running out of storage space. The plan is to eliminate the current storage garages and build a 10,000 sq ft storage facility. This will be used to secure all student records and data, as well as school equipment and supplies.

Mr. Henderson: Let's try to move toward electronic student records in this digital age. Suggested a possible lobbyist to advocate with SCS on our behalf.

Dr. Tharp: We need to think about how we can digitize student data in a similar way to how the medical industry has digitized patient data. Recommend connecting with [Daphene McFerren](#), Executive Director of Hooks Institute, who recently did a lot of work in this area.

Dr. Stephens: Agreed! Mentioned this is something we've been striving for the last five years. Unfortunately, the district requires us to maintain hard records for all scholars since the inception of the school.

3. Partnering with Memphis Education Fund

STAR Academy partnered with MEF to disburse grants to the Raleigh-Frayser community. **South of \$1m in grant.** Almost 1,000 people came and STAR was thrilled to receive a few new enrollments from this interaction with the local community.

4. Personnel (K teacher and ESL)

We are looking to secure a Kindergarten teacher. We have several interviews in the pipeline and hope to have the position confirmed by Friday, Nov 13, 2020.

5. Virtual Learning

The ELT is working through hybrid re-entry options for a possible December 2020 return for students, thinking through space, capacity, student safety, etc.

Mr. Paul Stephens: Eager for students to return. Memphis University School is doing an incredible job at making this happen safely using a 2-days-on-and-off rotation. The CDC visited their campus and approved their processes. Mr. Stephens will set up a time for Mr. Johnson and Dr. Stephens to meet them and see their processes and procedures.

Mr. Carson: Extremely interested in a hybrid model due to concerns with the attention span of students sitting at laptops all day.
Let's try to bring the most vulnerable scholars back to campus first.

Mr. Fanion: Shared a few horror stories of schools that opened up their doors to all the scholars at once. Suggested a phased-in re-entry for "special populations."

6. Pre-K Program

Dr. Stephens: We are looking to build a robust, state-of-the-art program for Pre-K. This is something that parents have been requesting and we are responding by actively exploring what this could look like. A feasibility study for Pre-K will be conducted in December.

7. Development Corp Acquisition

This is the acquisition we've been discussing all year that was delayed due to COVID. Conversations are ongoing and will possibly be completed by Thanksgiving.

8. Misc

Shakia Clark: Curious about Giving Tuesday and end-of-year giving opportunities on the marketing side. It's definitely a crowded space for fundraising, but a lot of eyes are on education and people want to do their part.

Mark Yates: Really proud of STAR Academy with its growth and commitment to the community. If there are any STAR parents who are in the professional services industry, he has resources for them. They should go to Bbamemphis.com to apply.

9. Closing Remarks

Bishop Stephens thanks everyone for their time and passion for all that STAR Academy is doing. Also mentioned that board members would receive correspondence soon regarding the annual board training.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **November 25th** 2020, 7am