



**B.E.S.T. ACADEMY MINUTES:
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS May 1, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of Brookfield Engineering Science and Technology Academy Charter School (“**B.E.S.T.**” or the “**School**”) was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2024

VIDEO LINK:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/x0ca_rSOwCLDNPB4tYGaR4Kz_LMwsg-5PdMI89Vq1QFN-AZV9lthLEhznF45oB_.ZrhCCNExb45IWDjR

Directors Present in Person: Chad Leptich, Marcella Nino, Debra Webb, and Gary McCloskey

LOCATION:
Barker Blue Dog Office
6360 El Cajon Blvd #101
San Diego, CA 92115

Directors Present Via Video Conference: None

Directors Absent: Joseph Cipres

Also Present: Alex Soriano, Joel Manwarren, James Hummel, James Mays, Reynalda Lopez, Mariano Lozano-Soto

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Board Vice President Gary McCloskey called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM A quorum of the directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Present: Marcella Nino, Debra Webb, Chad Leptich, Gary McCloskey Absent: Joseph Cipres

2. **Approval of Agenda:** *Motion to approve the May 1, 2024 Regular Board Meeting agenda.*

Approval Motion: Debra Webb

Second: Marcella Nino

Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *absent*

Debra Webb - *aye*
Chad Leptich - *aye*
Gary McCloskey - *aye*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Leads Pledge: *Debra Webb*

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS / RECOGNITION / REPORTS

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PROPOSALS/REPORTS/INFORMATION

- a. *Budget Update -: James Mays reports on the Summer School budget. Summer School will only be offered to current students, with a focus on writing. Each teacher will receive a \$5000 stipend with approximately 30 students assigned to them.*
- b. *Employee Handbook - Alex Soriano reports on the changes suggested by legal. M Nino asks regarding the Whistleblower policy and the specifics of the protections for a whistleblower. Alex Soriano explains the internal process and the complaint form attached to the handbook.*
- c. *LCAP - James Mays introduces the LCAP team to present the LCAP to the board and receive feedback and input. 2 goals were presented at this meeting. The team members are James Hummel and Mariano Lozano-Soto.*
 - i. *James Hummel presents goal 1, to enhance literacy across all content areas. This goal aligns with the LCFE state priorities.*
 - ii. *Mariano Lozaon-Soto presents goal 3, increasing graduation rates and college and career readiness. The goal is based on analyzing data.*

7. APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED MOTION FOR CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board considers all matters under the consent agenda to be routine and will be approved, ratified, and enacted in one motion in the form listed below. Unless specifically requested by a board member for further discussion or removed from the agenda, there will be no more discussion on these items prior to the Board vote. Comments by the Board may be made at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Approval Motion: Marcella Nino **Second:** Debra Webb **Ayes:** All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - aye
Joseph Cipres - absent
Debra Webb - aye
Chad Leptich - aye
Gary McCloskey - aye

- a. **Approval of the Minutes:** *February 28, 2024 Board Meeting*
- b. **Check Register:**
- c. **Expense Reports:**
- d. **Routine Contract Renewals:**

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Audit Report for the year ending June 2023** [LINK](#)
 - i. **Approval accepts the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2023.**

Alex Soriano presents an audit that has been performed by the audit company.

Approval Motion: Debra Webb
Ayes: All

Second: Marcella Nino

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - aye
Joseph Cipres - Absent
Debra Webb - aye
Chad Leptich - aye
Gary McCloskey - aye

- b. **Special Programs Director** [LINK](#)
 - i. **Approval establishes position to provide leadership to ensure an aligned and articulated assessment, accountability, and data analysis program**

Alex Soriano presents the need to approve the position but the position will not be filled at this time. Instead, 2 counselors will be hired. The duties of the position will be distributed amongst teaching staff, administrative staff, and the counselors.

Approval Motion: Chad Leptich **Second:** Debra Webb **Ayes:** All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - aye
Joseph Cipres - Absent
Debra Webb - aye
Chad Leptich - aye
Gary McCloskey - aye

c. Job Classification Adjustment [LINK](#)

i. Move Coordinator positions to Director positions for the 24-25 school year.

Alex Soriano presents the request to move coordinators to the director table with additional days and duties.

Approval Motion: Debra Webb **Second:** Marcella Nino **Ayes:** All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - aye
Joseph Cipres - absent
Debra Webb - aye
Chad Leptich - aye
Gary McCloskey - aye

d. Online Purchasing System (OPS) Renewal [LINK](#)

i. Approval continues system for homeschool families to access educational units for educational purchases

James Mays presents information about the OPS system for families. Chad Leptich requests a demonstration of the OPS

system so the board can experience what parents and families see.

Approval Motion: Chad Leptich **Second:** Marcella Nino **Ayes:** All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - aye
Joseph Cipres - absent
Debra Webb - aye
Chad Leptich - aye
Gary McCloskey - aye

e. Brightthinker Curriculum Renewal [LINK](#)

i. Approval continues digital curriculum for Elementary

James Mays presents the renewal of the curriculum used in the lower grades. This does not meet the maturity needs of HS students.

Approval Motion: Debra Webb

Second: Chad Leptich **Ayes:** All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - aye
Joseph Cipres - absent
Debra Webb - aye
Chad Leptich - aye
Gary McCloskey - aye

f. BEABLE Renewal [LINK](#)

i. Approval renews the online literacy platform

James Mays presents the need to continue with Beable to support literacy.

Approval Motion: Chad Leptich

Second: Debra Webb **Ayes:** All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - aye
Joseph Cipres - absent
Debra Webb - aye
Chad Leptich - aye
Gary McCloskey - aye

g. Arizona State Learner Course Agreement [LINK](#)

i. Establishes partnership with ASU to provide online courses for college credit

James Mays presents the partnership with ASU to provide college courses for our students. This is a step towards improving college and career readiness.

Approval Motion: Chad Leptich **Second:** Marcella Nino **Ayes:** All

Marcella Nino - aye
Joseph Cipres - absent
Debra Webb - aye
Chad Leptich - aye
Gary McCloskey - aye

h. Stepping Stones Contract Renewal [LINK](#)

i. Approval continues Special Education personnel support through Stepping Stones

James Mays presents the desire to renew the relationship to continue support for special education services.

Approval Motion: Chad Leptich **Second:** Debra Webb **Ayes:** All

Marcella Nino - aye
Joseph Cipres - absent
Debra Webb - aye
Chad Leptich - aye
Gary McCloskey - aye

i. Association of Personalized Learning Schools and Services [LINK](#)

i. Approval joins the statewide Personalized Learning model network

James Mays presents the desire to join this networking group. Chad Leptich mentions this group was involved with lawsuits in the past. James Mays suggests to continue holding off on this approval.

Approval Motion: **Second: Ayes:**

Marcella Nino -
Joseph Cipres -
Debra Webb -
Chad Leptich -
Gary McCloskey -

9. BOARD COMMENTS:

Chad Leptich requests an OPS presentation in future meetings. Chad also mentions an issue with the website and a search issue. Chad mentions the need for an HR person to be hired so it is not a director handling HR.

Debra Webb is thrilled with all the plans to support college bound students and loves the expectations to take college classes.

Gary McClosky thanks all for all the hard work.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Upcoming BEST Academy Board Meetings:

- October 4, 2023, Brown Act Training
- November 1, 2023
- December 6, 2023
- February 7, 2024
- *February 28, 2024, added*

- March 6, 2024 Canceled
- April 3, 2024
- May 1, 2024
- June 5, 2024
- June TBD

Approval Motion: Debra Webb **Second:** Gary McCloskey **Ayes:** all

Meeting Adjourns at 11:46 pm.

Marcella Nino - aye

Joseph Cipres - absent

Debra Webb - aye

Chad Leptich - aye

Gary McCloskey - aye

The meeting adjourned 11:46 pm