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# PEPIN ACADEMIES



## PEPIN ACADEMIES OF PASCO COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 13, 2015  
6pm

Pepin Academies of Pasco County  
9804 Little Rd.  
New Port Richey, FL 34654

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Dreama Bilby  
Ed Hammant  
Louise Ellrod  
Cathy Peckett  
Dennis Sheaffer  
Lisa Richardson  
Kathryn Starkey via phone

Jason Aponte  
Charlie Burke  
Celeste Kellar  
Lauren Bergold

PUBLIC  
COMMENT/  
OPENING  
COMMENTS

No Public Comment

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Edward Hammant motions to approve the minutes from December.

Louise Ellrod, Second.

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PRINCIPAL  
REPORT

- Holiday activities: PTO did a holiday gathering, music face painting, photos, bake sale, Very well attended. \$500.00 raised
  - Art teacher developed a Candyland holiday show.
  - Art of students, limited on music instruments, lots of tears, from parents happy their children got up to participate
  - Staff appreciation breakfast was catered by Havana Dreamers January 5th.
  - Tutoring free to students
  - Teacher evaluations starting
  - March 2<sup>nd</sup> through end of year is testing
  - Enroll number is at 205... lost 5 students after break,
  - 2- Want gifted curriculum , anxiety disorder students
  - 3 – Moved out of the area
  - Projecting 225 by February
  - Matrix levels? mostly 3s --10% are 4s
  - New ESE specialist and guidance counselor, needed by law.
  - Currently have 34 high school students
  - This gentleman has experience writing IEPs too.
  - Starts on Thursday
  - Would like the board to decide what direction to go with the current space.
  - To bring in 300 students total, the school would need to acquire the outer parcels and renovate
  - 250 students could fit more comfortably.
  - Old pizza kitchen location is available —looks expensive; the old Chase Bank is available now. Need to look at cost to renovate and not to put too much into space since it is a temporary site.
  - Genesis site is not an option
  - Teacher intent to return goes out around March
  - Lottery for students to be held in May
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- Someone needs to come in with knowledge to look at the space and configure space for best use.
  - Majority of the students coming in are middle school, 8<sup>th</sup> will feed into 9<sup>th</sup> grade and so on...
  - Board is given a packet, enclosed is the Principal evaluation
  - Kathryn Starkey: questions what the deal is regarding structuring to make sure if DDR leases to another charter school that Pepin can get its investment back.
  - Pepin of Pasco has a 3 year lease with DDR.
  - Pasco District is already asking for 2015-16 projections, Celeste projected 250
  - Louise Ellrod volunteered to have someone nearby with her construction company to look at land.
  - From experience the zoning and permitting is a lot of work. Need it done as quickly and easily as possible.
  - Charter was written based on 300 FTE. What happens if the school stays at 250?
  - Charlie Burke believes the costs are covered.
  - Goal: There needs to be a new space and a search committee
  - Currently the walls don't go up to the ceiling, and the cafeteria is a loud environment.
  - Celeste Kellar is concerned she can't sell it very long unless the parents know something new is coming.
  - Talks of going into the Porter Ranch a few years from now
  - Cathy Peckett mentions that there are 13 acres (expensive piece) next to Marlowe Elementary, it is \$800,000 but they may go for half the cost.
  - Paul R. Smith school has 4 acres available
  - Makes sense to go with land already available and built out.
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- Kathryn Starkey: Recommends the families be mapped out to see where they are coming from. Celeste says a lot are West Pasco and Wesley Chapel
  - 57% free and reduce lunch and that number is rising. Directly certified from the state.
  - If Pepin 80% free and reduce we would be Title 1 school, bringing in more funding
  - Lisa Richardson questioned the Sweet Bay location in Trinity? It has been looked at and a parent company overseas owns it. John DeLaVergne who Pepin works with for property acquisitions said there are hoops to jump. (Rowan and 54 and Mitchell Blvd.)
  - The DeBartolo school created a campus from a grocery, built a gym and offices around the parameter of the gym.
  - Wish list is to be located near a high school with outdoor rental space, near a YMCA too. Riverview uses the boys and girls club
  - Pasco transit sends a cab which is \$2.00 a ride. It is a great partnership must live ½ mile from bus stop. About 10 students taking advantage of the service.
  - Evaluation system is included in the packet; Celeste can send the board log in information if they are interested. Evaluation through Florida Consortium of Charter Schools. The board can log in and look at rational/ Matrix components.
  - Principal Kellar completes 2-4 formals, walk through at least once a month per class room.
  - There is a teacher that has missed 15 ½. This teacher is being evaluated based on his performance.
  - CSP grant onsite evaluator is coming on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January— link for a survey was sent to the Board by Celeste Kellar.
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FINANCE  
REPORT

- Bottom line, projecting +50,000 operating expenses, excludes debt payment we are supposed to make in June, and extension needed from Tom
- Restructured some services between Hillsborough and Pasco; 8 people, Craig and Celeste restructured the payment, which helps the bottom line.
- Draw up an agreement soon about services.... re-worked annually, more often if needed.
- Good news, the lease charged sales tax and shouldn't have, so that we re-adjusted.
- A check for the build out came in, more than estimated; to make sure it is correct. 30,000 more than anticipated. Fairly tight budget and will be until we are at 250 students.
- Russ Jacques is still available on a consulting basis.
- \$150,000 savings from part of the salaries that Pasco used to cover. Geri Henry is now a full-time SLP in Hillsborough, falls under Hillsborough budget now.
- Application still coming in, two applications came in today.

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COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS  
REPORT

- Bright House Networks is now airing our PSA in Hillsborough and Pasco counties, even areas in Hernando and Pinellas.
- Approved to work with Tampa Bay Parenting Magazine, three month advertising, first month is their January education edition. –Includes print ad, one year listing in print and digital education listing. 2 months on the top page banner of their bi weekly newsletter. The foundation is paying for this.
- Positive Behavior Support Corporation is holding their large regional conference in St. Pete on 12th – 13th and asked for us to be sponsors for their conference bags, we will have our logo on the bag and receive a ½ page ad in program, This conference includes professionals as well as caregivers, parents, teachers, and anyone else who wants to learn more about Positive Behavior Supports in the home and community settings. It is marketed to the school ESE coordinators, local doctors' offices, local speech/OT companies, med-waiver support coordinators, and any of our other contacts who work with their kiddos
- Tom Pepin was honored at the Lightning game on December 29th, as a lightning hero, donating \$50,000 to the schools foundation
- Now that the new year is here, we have started working on the push for Gala Fundraiser dinner auction items, sponsors are coming in, \$4,000 from Hatricks, \$10,000 from the New York Yankees Foundation, \$2,500 from Family Health Centers. Board is asked they have any connections with businesses that can donate products or service please let Lauren Bergold know so that they can be approached by the Gala committee.
- Jon Gruden is a possible speaker option. He should know his ESPN schedule by the end of the month.

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PROSPECTIVE  
BOARD  
MEMBER  
DISCUSSION

- Ed Hammant motions to accept Gerald Clay's resignation as a board member.
- Second by Lisa Richardson, all in favor.
- Possible board member, Tim Clay – brother of Gerald Clay.
- He resides in the New Port Richey area; he was a principal and superintendent.
- Experience with Medicaid and contacts with the Florida Department of Education. Dennis Sheaffer to reach out to him about attending a meeting.
- DeLynn Gaston has a son at the school and is interested in joining the board. Very involved in the community.
- Dennis Sheaffer challenges the board to put feelers out for additional members, lawyers, bankers, New Port Richey area residents a plus.
- Louise Ellrod mentions that Dionne Blaesing is an Adoption Attorney in New Port Richey who may be interested, Rebecca bell
- Lisa Richardson knows of someone high up with Bank of America in Trinity, who may be interested and has a lot of connections in the area.

ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTS

- Protocol on invitation for prospective board members:
    - Invite person to a board meeting, see what we do and answer questions.
    - Have them watch the Pepin video.
    - Create a board manual.
  - Lisa Richardson mentions that a board she is on waits till a person commits to 3 board meetings before they are voted on as a member.
  - Gala information to be sent to the board members.
  - Bowling—Dennis Sheaffer
  - 5K –300 runners, now split in 2 days. charge \$30.00 to run
  - Clay shooting event can earn \$42,000; the cost is \$500 a team. Presenting sponsor, \$5,000. Tampa Bay Sporting Clay, create shell sponsors, food donated from Sonny's. Waivers done electronically. Obtain auction item. Requires knowing businesses, networking, takes 8 months to put together.
  - Serving for scholars (Pasco Education Foundation)—Bonefish donates the food and beverage, charity provides servers (try to get celebrity
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servers). Getting business people, local involved. Lunch time.

- Lauren Bergold attending a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to learn about Booster-thon/ walk- a-thon.
- DMV- provides a charity day, volunteers needed, talk to people who attend the DMV; visitors agree that a dollar will go to charity.
- Create a Casino Night, Bingo Night, trial pursuit night, Bunco, Mini Gala on the campus.
- Corn hole tournament: hot dogs, drinks, corn hole donated. Kids can decorate boards; create name team, art classes involved.
- Progress Energy—art from students for sale
- Run with ideas, and focus on selecting a couple to vote on and execute.

Adjournment – 7:32pm

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Next meeting scheduled for  
**Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6PM**  
Pepin Academies- Pasco Campus

*Amy Turner*