



*Mission: Educating all students to highest levels of academic and social standards with a focus on Hmong language and culture.*

HOPE Community Academy  
August 27, 2020  
Conference Call via Zoom at 5:00 pm

*Present:* John Yang Mai Vang, Andy Grover, Don Lorr and Zuag Lee  
*Absent:* Ka Zoua Yan and Sia Lo  
*Staff:* Cindy Yang, Maychy Vu and Chai Lee  
*Others:* Kou Vang, Justin Fincher, Dao Yang

The meeting convened at 5:04 pm.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Agenda  
***MOTION: Mai moved, Zuag seconded the motion to approve the agenda. No discussion. Motion carried.***
- III. Approval of June 25, 2020, July 20, 2020, and August 6, 2020 Minutes  
***MOTION: Andy moved, Don seconded the motion to approve the June 25, 2020, July 20, 2020, and August 6, 2020 minutes. No discussion. Motion carried.***
- IV. Community Comments  
Egnyte Training Part 2 – Dao Yang
  - Dao Yang from DaoTech Solution trained board members how to access and navigate Egnyte.Building Expansion Project Update – Kou Vang
  - Justin Fincher from JB VANG updated the board members on the expansion and approval of the design and working with Koma Architect team.
    - o Site Plan Review was approved by the City of St. Paul with comments
    - o Floor plans in place with weekly design meeting
    - o Start date of beginning construction late October to early November
    - o Kitchen program design planning for proper growth
    - o Property owners – 3 owners have verbally agreed to selling properties
    - o City of St. Paul & Parks and Recs – relocating Swede Hollow Park entrance due to bridge being identified as historic and must remain in current place

- Kou Vang explained to the board members that there are 2 documents that will need to be approved by the board: Saint Paul HRA Bond Application and MDE Review & Comment Submittal Application.

HRA Bond Application:

- o conduit bonds through the City of St. Paul;
- o information on the applications have been shared with HOPE board;
- o two public hearings and then forwarded to the City council for approval;
- o Series A is tax exempt and Series B are taxable (legal fees, etc.)

Discussion: Has the Friends of Swede Hollow been contacted about the building project? Community Council District 5 has been contacted and would take lead on who/other organizations to contact as well as follow their process.

***MOTION: Mai moved, Andy seconded the motion to approve House and Redevelopment Authority. No discussion. Motion carried.***

MDE Review and Comment Application:

- o standard procedure when a district is doing major renovation, build a new building/addition to send to MDE
- o MDE responds within 60 days
- o If MDE is not in favor, bonds cannot be issued
- o Kou has worked with these projects for the past 15+ years and all have been approved
- o Plans must include projected enrollment, school background, existing facility (deficiencies), potential growth, and drawings

Discussion: If MDE does not approve, what happens? The district can appeal or re-submit.

***MOTION: Mai moved, Zuag seconded the motion to approve Review and Comment submittal for HOPE Community Academy. No discussion. Motion carried.***

V. Consent Agenda

1) External Service Providers

Teachers on Call

Substitutes for teachers and special education paraprofessionals

Designs for Learning

Special Education Program Support and MDE Report

DSS Commercial, Inc  
Snow Removal Service

CKC Good Food  
Food Service Program

***MOTION:** Mai moved, Don seconded the motion to approve Consent Agenda. Discussion: There was a concern expressed regarding having EL and Title teachers cover for teachers when they are out sick. Dr. Lee stated that it was in the best interest of the students and the team. **Motion carried.***

VI. Committee Reports

- 1) Executive Committee
  - a. There was none.
- 2) Board Operations Committee
  - a. October meeting – reviewed the 200 policies
  - b. Working on updating the Visitor Policy with input from Cindy and Mai (office staff)
  - c. Goal is to finalized visitors, bullying, and lead in school drinking water policies.
- 3) Finance Committee
  - June 2020 Summary Report
  - June 2020 Summary Income Statement
  - June 2020 Balance Sheet
  - June 2020 Payment Register

John went over the financials. See the attached June 2020 Financial Statements and Supplemental Information Report provided with the meeting materials.

The boards reviewed, discussed and filed the financial subject to audit.

VII. Existing Business

- There was none.

VIII. New Business

- 1) Executive Director Report
  - a. SY 2020-2021
    - Distance Learning Model
    - Opening Week for all staff
    - IT Equipment Distribution: 295 families, 10 did not show, 32 could not reach – will contact those families



Parent & Student IT Training: overall went well, requests for Hotspots, headphones & childcare

August 31, 2020 First day of school

Student Enrollment: 570 (projected 585) \*this is still a very soft number, will continue to monitor closely

b. UST updates

HOPE Annual Evaluation – UST responded on 8/27/20

\*3.4 and 3.5 have been addressed & ratings changed to reflect

Pre-K & High School Application Status

\*Pre-K application approved

\*HS application on hold – Sept. 16, 2020 meeting with UST Charter Accountability Board

c. Building Expansion Plans – see above updates from Kou Vang & Justin Fincher (JB Vang Realty)

d. Strategic Plans Dashboard Updates – there will be monthly updates from the Admin. Team

2) Plus/Delta

Plus:

a. Happy to hear student's enrollment went up.

b. Parents are interested in the future expansion and Pre-K/High School Program.

3) Others

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 24, 2020 5:00 pm via Zoom**