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Mission: Inspiring students to achieve high academic success while embracing Hmong language and culture.

HOPE Community Academy
June 15, 2021
Conference Call via Zoom at 5:00 pm

Present: John Yang, Sia Lo, Ka Zoua Yang, Hlies Scully, Don Lorr, Andy Grover

Absent: None

Staff: Maychy Vu

Others: Jenny Abbs – BergenKDV

I. Call to Order 5:03 pm

II. Approval of Agenda
Sia moved. Don seconded. Motion approved.
Ka – yes; Hlies - yes

III. Consent Agenda
Pre-K Program Partnership with East Side Learning Center
Background: The purpose of the Special Board meeting is to provide the board with an update on the pre-K program specifically the partnership with the East Side Learning Center. As shared in the June 11, 2021 email correspondence to the board, there are concerns from East Side that would greatly impact the planning and implementation of the pre-K program. Funding is a major concern, as East Side does not have the full funding to support this program long-term. They also no longer have the adequate staffing to oversee the program, and they want to re-negotiate the Memorandum of Understanding including adding service fees. With less than two months to finalize planning including hiring of the pre-K staff, Executive Director Vu made the recommendation to the full board to sever the partnership with East Side Learning Center. HOPE would operate the entire program on its own. The budget assumptions and revised budget model support HOPE running the pre-K program.

Discussion:

Will HOPE be financially able to support the full operation of the pre-K program long term?
What about ECFE and/or tuition based on a sliding scale? Does the revised budget model include the PPP loan?

With the CARES Act funds and the PPP loan for the next few years, HOPE would be able to operate the pre-K program. These funds will release other revenues to operate the pre-K



program. HOPE will continue to seek other funding sources to supplement this program long term.

Executive Director Vu had looked into ECFE previously. She was informed that they had special arrangements with the SPPS, and they would not enter into another partnership. ED Vu plans to look at other grants to fund the pre-K program long-term.

Tuition was not included in the initial planning and application, and it was not brought up to the twenty families that we have accepted their child into the pre-K program. At this time, it is too late to implement a sliding scale.

The budget model does not include the revenue from the PPP loan.

Will HOPE operate the full pre-K program?

Yes, HOPE will be responsible for running the entire pre-K program. This program will fall under the pre-K through 12 grade program, and under the supervision of the school principal. HOPE will hire the pre-K staff. Under the MOU, East Side was to hire the pre-K staff. However, to date East Side has not hired any staff. Other support services such as Special Education and EL services will be provided by HOPE, as stated in the application.

What plans in regards to the tutoring of the other students provided by East Side?

This is a separate issue from the tutoring program with the primary grades. The tutoring program has not been brought up by East Side.

Waiting List?

The pre-K program is fully enrolled with 20 students. Currently, we have five students. We have parents still requesting for pre-K registration and will continue the recruitment if the board approves this recommendation.

A letter will be sent on behalf of the board to our authorizer, The University of St. Thomas. Maychy will also inform East Side Learning Center of the board's decision to sever the partnership with them.

Sia moved. Andy seconded. Motion approved.
Hlies – yes; Don – yes; Ka - yes

IV. Adjournment 5:22 pm

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 5:00 pm via Zoom