



BOARD MEETING AGENDA: Conference Call

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

(Conference Call)

1. Welcome (Bishop Ed Stephens, Jr.)

Bishop Stephens opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their time, especially given the strenuous circumstances we're facing right now.

2. Acquisition Update (Mr. David Middleton)

Mr. Middleton reported that we finally have a commitment letter from the bank and we're looking to close in the next 90 days (assuming COVID 19 doesn't throw any curveballs into the timeline).

Everything looks amazing and we're ready to move forward.

3. Academic Report (Mr. James Johnson)

3.1 Instructional Support and Resources

Last Monday, STAR became a virtual school.

All teachers and staff are available 10am-3pm as a support for instructional packets and resources that were sent out prior to Spring Break. We have an aggressive plan regarding how we support students while we're closed.

We're pushing out resources through all of our social media outlets, as well as Class Dojo. This is a program that allows each class to have a platform where they can upload documents, videos, etc that parents can use to help students on any given assignments.

3.2 EOY Benchmark Assessment

Schools are not required to take the EOY Tennessee Ready Assessment for 4th-8th grade students at this stage. However, for the purpose of school accountability and teacher accountability, if we're permitted to come back before the school year ends, we'll still continue on our normal path. That means we'll have two EOY benchmark assessments that we'll give our students in order to track progress. These results will also help us plan the next school year.

Also, there are meetings being held this week to discuss score cards and to see if we're required to submit any EOY data. This is being done on a district-basis this year.

4. Operations Report (Dr. Ed Stephens III)

4.1 STAR Moving Forward

Our flagship college tours were canceled this year for obvious reasons, but we were able to get all of our deposits refunded.

We're not anticipating a return to school this academic year, but we're using this time to do everything we can to protect our staff, faculty and building regarding sanitation.

Dr. Stephens wanted to publicly recognize Mr. Johnson, specifically in this season. The way in which he has engaged STAR's teachers and parents – whether that's through email or phone – has been incredible. As an example, Mr. Johnson recently gave a virtual PE class and this is proving to be a great conversation starter in our community as our parents are re-posting those videos on social media.

4.2 Board Engagement

Dr. Stephens thanked the Board for the way in which everyone is engaging and offering to help during this time. It makes such a difference in the world we live in to be working alongside people who care and who sacrifice.

Dr. Stephens thanked Dr. Joe Carson for his generosity after he dropped off 40 x 32" TV's to STAR Academy. STAR is so grateful for his level of commitment and his heart. The TV's are going to STAR Academy's teachers as gifts to show our appreciation to them. Our teachers and staff are so grateful to our Board for their generosity and support.

Regarding Board engagement, we currently have 85% of pledges at the time of meeting. Dr. Stephens respectfully urged people to get their remaining pledges in as soon as possible.

4.3 Food Relief

Dr. Stephens expressed gratitude for the way in which the Board has stepped up at this time, asking what they can do to help. He also shared that Golden Gate Cathedral is hosting a food pantry where they'll serve 300+ families in the community. Again, it's a joy to work alongside people who want to serve.

Mr. Middleton highlighted that STAR also has a mobile pantry where we help any family, not just STAR families. We're honored to partner with Neighborhood Christian Center on this initiative.

Dr. Stephens thanked Mr. Paul Stephens. He's using one of his restaurants to help raise funds to prepare food for our families. These meals will be a surprise when families come to the drive-thru to pick up student packets. We're so excited to be able to inject joy into our families!

Dr. Carson wanted to publicly thank Bishop Stephens and his team for everything they're doing in the community at this time. He also let the Board know that Life Church will be hosting a mobile food giveaway at two of their locations (255 N Highland and 3683 Austin Peay) every Wednesday and Saturday for the next season.

5. Closing Remarks (Bishop Ed Stephens, Jr.)

Bishop Stephens thanked everyone for their time this morning and for their commitment to STAR Academy. He also expressed joy at the privilege of being able to partner with different entities to help provide food to the broader community in this season of need.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 29th 2020, 7am