

Lorna James-Cervantes, President
Sylvia Lazos, Treasurer
Dr. Alain Bengochea, Secretary
Nicole Thompson, Officer
Jaime Gonzales, Officer
Dachresha Harris, Officer
Dr. Alee Moore, Officer
Heather Nay, Officer

Miriam Benitez, Executive Director



Strong Start Academy Board Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022
5:00 pm

Lorna: [inaudible 00:00:02] will be able to join us by the time [inaudible 00:00:08]
So, this is Lorna James-Cervantes. I'd like to call the meeting of Strong Start
Academy Elementary School Board to order. At this time, I'd like to begin with roll
call. So, Lorna James-Cervantes, present. Alain Bengochea?

Alain: Present.

Lorna: Heather [inaudible 00:00:31]

Heather: Here.

Lorna: Jaime Gonzalez?

Jaime: Present.

Lorna: Dacresha Harris?

Dacresha: Present.

Lorna: Nicole Thompson?

Nicole: Present.

Lorna: Sylvia Lazos? Not present. Alee Moore? Not present at this time. [inaudible
00:00:53] Okay. Thank you, everybody. We do have quorum, so we'll go ahead and
move to public comment during this time in accordance with opening the meeting,
and I will just also remind everybody that we are recording the meeting, and this
time for public comment, this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on
the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name
for the record, the amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time. Any single
speaker [inaudible 00:01:24] be limited to two minutes, absent Board approval. So,

is there any public comment? I don't see anybody in the room wishing to make public comment, and I don't see anybody online. Did we receive any written public comment?

Woman: [inaudible 00:01:44]

Lorna: Thank you. So we'll move, then, to item number four, this is possible action to approve the final minutes from the July 14th Board meeting. And so, does everybody need just some minutes to take a look at those, or did you look at them ahead of time? [inaudible 00:02:06] nod, they've all looked at them ahead of time? Okay. Are there any corrections or additions to the minutes? If not, we can go ahead and have a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Jaime: Jaime Gonzalez, for the record [inaudible 00:02:26] minutes from the July 14th, 2022 Board meeting.

Lorna: Thank you. Is there a second to that motion?

Woman: [inaudible 00:02:36]

Lorna: Thank you. [inaudible 00:02:40] seconded. All those in favor to approve the board meeting minutes as written?

All: Aye.

Lorna: Aye. All those opposed? Okay, so these minutes are approved. Thank you very much. I was asked if we could please at this time move item number 10 to the top of our agenda tonight. This is a report by the city of Las Vegas, a discussion regarding the dedication of the Tony Hsieh Education Center. So, who is set to speak on that item?

Woman: Angela is prepared to speak on that, but she just took a phone call.

Rocio: I think I can speak on it.

Lorna: Okay.

Rocio: This is Rocio Martinez, for the record. So, the dedication for the Tony Hsieh Education Center I believe is scheduled for September 15th, in the afternoon. I know that it's the intention of the Hsieh family to have some invited guests go to the school in the afternoon. City guests will include the mayor, her team, and some other city staff. There will be an official ribbon cutting on that day, and I believe that will be part of the launch to the Life Is Beautiful Festival, and

they just want to make just a special honor and significance for everything Tony Hsieh did for downtown Las Vegas, and Strong Start Academy being part of those efforts.

Dimitri: This is Dimitri Dalacas from the Las Vegas City Attorney's office. Just to add to that, that should culminate with the closing of the property. It's currently anticipated that we should be, the city should be closing and purchasing the property by next Wednesday. We were hoping that that closing would have occurred this week, but there were some delays in some of the documentation, getting it signed from the seller's side. So at the moment, the hope is that we will be closing by next Wednesday, which is well before on September 15th. Our purchase agreement requires that the naming ceremony be held within four months of the closing date, so we would be in compliance with that.

The naming covenant is also going to be recorded on the property, which is very similar to the naming covenant restrictions that you currently have in your lease. There has been an issue that has come up from the Hsieh estate side regarding some trademark infringements that they are dealing with, which has sort of delayed I think to some degree why we haven't been able to close escrow. But they assure us that this should not delay or postpone the escrow, and that the naming covenant should be sufficient to grant the city a license in order to use the name, Tony Hsieh Education Center. So, that's where we're at with respect to the naming covenant closing, as it relates to the dedication ceremony in September.

Lorna: Thank you. Any questions by board members? I do have one question. Lorna Cervantes, for the record. So, if we are able to close, or if the closing is going to happen next Wednesday, which will bring about that, you know, working through the naming covenant and then the ribbon cutting on September 15th, does that mean that as of September 1st, we would be needing to...or our next board meeting would be we need to bring back an item for the lease with the city then, and we would be able to move from the current lease with the Hsieh family to then a lease with the city? Is that correct?

Dimitri: Dmitri Dalacas, City Attorney's office. It would actually not be a new lease, it would be an amendment to the existing lease, and those terms and conditions will be modified accordingly. I believe it will have to go before City Council for approval. But you are correct that once we close escrow, the next step between the city and the school would be to amend certain terms and conditions related to that lease, and go from there.

Lorna: Lorna Cervantes, thank you for that information. I'm just thinking about the fiscal ramifications of any of these changeovers, and the amounts we'll be paying within the lease [inaudible 00:07:28] All right, any other questions from anyone else, with regard to the naming ceremonies? I do have one other question with regard to the ribbon cutting and this ceremony. Are we requesting that board members be present at the ribbon cutting? And if so, can all board members be present, or do we need to only have a few more than half of us there so that we're not in quorum at that meeting [inaudible 00:08:04]

Rocio: Rocio Martinez, for the record. So, I know that in terms of the invited guest list for that event, the Hsieh family gets 50 guests, and the City of Las Vegas gets 50 guests, and I'm not sure if the board has to be present. But for sure, the mayor and other dignitaries, such as Councilwoman Olivia Diaz, I'm sure will be there for the ribbon cutting, the City Manager's office I'm assuming as well, but there's been no discussion on the board being president at the ribbon cutting.

Woman: [inaudible 00:08:37] for the record, as far as legal counsel, we would have to decide on if there was a quorum issue with all the board members being present. But I think the intent would be if it meets legal requirements, the board would all be invited, but that would be up to legal counsel.

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, board counsel, everyone can come. There's no issue. We just won't be, you know, discussing board business while we're there.

Woman: Correct.

Lorna: Okay. Thank you, everyone. [inaudible 00:09:06] All right, thank you very much. And I guess I should have said would we be invited to go, rather than expected to be there? But I know that it would be a great opportunity for all board members if we all were able to be present and supportive of this work, because we've all been here from the ground up with the school. So, thanks very much.

Is there any other discussion with item number 10? I know it was just a report at this time.

Woman: I have a question regarding the logo, so we can send our shirts to be made. Do we have to wait for you guys to hear back from the copyright stuff to move forward to revise the logo?

Dimitri: Dimitri Dalacas, City Attorney's office. At the moment, the naming covenant itself has not been amended from what was originally stated in the

purchase and sale agreement. The Hsieh estate brought up this...issue that they're having on their end, and mentioned that they would ask for some kind of post-closing licensing agreement for the city to enter into. We have not seen what that would look like, and we feel that the licensing rights are already described in the existing naming covenant. So, the fact that we don't know what those terms and conditions may or may not be, and the ultimate decision on whether to enter into that kind of an agreement in post-closing would be up to our City Council. We respectfully declined the request for that type of an accommodation at this time. We haven't heard back from the Hsieh estate. They forwarded on the naming covenant for us to re-execute and provide the title, so as far as we know now, the issue is resolved. Whether something comes up between now and closing, or after closing, I can't opine to. But as far as what the naming covenant is, and what was described in your lease, and what's described in our purchase agreement has not changed. So you can, at this point, most likely move forward. If you want to play it safe, and wait until we actually close escrow to put the order in, that's up to you.

Woman: All right. Thank you.

Lorna: All right, thank you. Any other questions regarding item number 10? All right, thank you. I see somebody has joined us online. Is that you, Dr. Moore?

Dr. Moore: Yes, this is Dr. Moore. I'm present.

Lorna: Thank you, Dr. Moore...

Dr. Moore: I apologize for the tardiness.

Lorna: No problem. We'll make sure that the record reflects that you're present for the meeting. Thank you so much. And you came in right as we were having our first report, so no problem at all.

Dr. Moore: Thank you.

Lorna: So at this time... You're welcome. At this time, let's move to item number five. This is a report by the executive director regarding account status with the Nevada Department of Public Safety to move forward with criminal background checks, and discussion of possible action regarding next steps to obtain fingerprints for board members and employee.

Miriam: Miriam Benitez, for the record. And as probably all of you know at this point, we did finally receive our welcome packet, and we arranged for

fingerprinting to take place this afternoon, after school, and we were able to fingerprint almost everybody. But those of you that were not able to come to the school today, we did find out that the location for the fingerprinting company is right on Maryland Parkway and Sahara, so it's about a four-minute drive from where our school is, and we can make arrangement. Contact me after, so that I can help you make arrangements to go get that fingerprinting done. But in general, I think everyone went except for two board members.

Lorna: Lorna Cervantes, were all staff members able to be fingerprinted?

Miriam: Yes. Yes.

Lorna: Very good. And what did they say is the turnaround on that?

Miriam: Five weeks the earliest, the latest seven weeks.

Lorna: All right, thank you very much. Does anyone have any question about the fingerprinting before we [inaudible 00:13:49]

Nicole: Yes. Nicole Thompson, I do believe in a previous meeting it was noted that some of us did not have to go through the process, as we were already on record for fingerprint. Is it noted on the records, those individuals who are already serving in public service capacities, such as myself, and other teachers or other members who are, you know, already on record for fingerprint?

Lorna: This is Lorna Cervantes, for the record, and yes, Nicole, we noted that you, Miriam, and myself, and then other teachers at this school were licensed teachers, so we are not...it's not necessary to have the fingerprinting completed at this time, as long as we hold a current license. And so, we would have it noted at this time.

Nicole: Okay. Thank you so much.

Lorna: You're welcome. Thank you for the question. Any other questions regarding fingerprinting? So whoever has not had the opportunity to go to the school today fingerprinting, please make contact with Miriam separately, after the meeting, and she will see to it that you have the information you need.

All right, so at this time we can... Was there a question, Alee?

Alee: No, I just said I will do, we will do.

Lorna: Okay, great. Thank you. Sorry about that. So, we can move at this time to item number six. This is a report by the executive director, and discussion

regarding the status of open decisions with Strong Start Academy Elementary School.

Woman: [inaudible 00:15:30] what number are we? Six?

Woman: Right.

Lorna: Open positions.

Miriam: Oh...all positions are filled.

Lorna: Okay, very good. All positions are filled [inaudible 00:15:40]

Miriam: Oh, I take that back. We have a teacher who is going through the process of getting a provisional special ed license, and then as soon as that's finalized, that position will be officially filled.

Lorna: [inaudible 00:16:06] position until then?

Miriam: Yes.

Lorna: Okay. Thank you. Any questions regarding staffing? Okay. Then at this time, we can move to item number seven. This is a report by the executive director, and discussion [inaudible 00:16:22] regarding the status of student enrollment.

Miriam: So, our enrollment came in a little low. We were expecting 100 students, and we are at 74. So, we did hear back from just a handful of families that they're not quite back from vacation, but that's a handful, so we are hoping that through our continued efforts, we're going to keep trying to recruit, that we can get that number at least to 100, where we thought we were before school started. And now, we do have specifically demographic numbers, and only 25% of our student population right now, their parents completed their registration, saying the primary language at home is Spanish, and so we have 52% as native English speakers, and the rest didn't answer that question. Which, according to Infinite Campus, they're supposed to, so I'm not sure how they were able to not answer, so we need to follow up with that missing number. And then ethnicity-wise, we have 58% Hispanic, 15%, Black, 15% multicultural, 2%, Asian, 4% White, and the rest of the missing numbers, again, didn't answer, blank.

Lorna: [inaudible 00:18:05] would you repeat the Asian, and...

Miriam: 2% Asian, and 4% White.

Lorna: Okay [inaudible 00:18:13] Thank you.

Woman: [inaudible 00:18:27] for the record. Can I say something about when they asked what language is spoken in the house, for example my house, it's 50/50, his dad talks in Spanish, and I talk in English, so I really didn't know what to answer. Personally, I speak to him in English, but if you ask his dad, he'll say Spanish. So there wasn't that option, so I put mostly English, because he does speak both languages.

Miriam: Okay. And that does make sense, because as I'm walking in the classrooms, I see and hear students, so that 25% did seem a little underrepresented, because I think of that, that there's multiple languages spoken in some homes. So, I think founders probably wrote what they primarily, what's most spoken, so English.

Heather: Just because I was kind of confused. I'm like, well, what do I put? Because, you know, he could have a conversation in Spanish, or he can have one in English, you know? So... But that wasn't an option to answer on the questions.

Miriam: Yeah.

Lorna: This is Lorna Cervantes. And on that home language survey, too, it'll ask other questions, like what language do they speak with their friends, what language do they speak with other people, and so that kind of brings that out a little bit. And if you say if there's any other language spoken as well, you can put Spanish, then they'll still test, you know, do testing, and see kind of where his strength lies, also.

Woman: Okay.

Lorna: [inaudible 00:19:54]

Miriam: Yeah, that's 100% accurate, but for this number, I only pulled the data that identified the primary language used in the home.

Lorna: Thank you. Lorna Cervantes, do we have any special education students who enrolled?

Miriam: Yes, we do. We have five special ed students that we know of, and we're working with a company that we had outsourced to [inaudible 00:20:25] provided the IEPs to them, and working closely with them to make sure we're in compliance with everything.

Lorna: Thank you. Are there any other questions about student enrollment? All right. So this is Lorna Cervantes, I would just encourage you to continue those phone calls and those recruiting efforts so we can continue to work to build our enrollment at this school, and get as many kids in as we can. I know that a lot of times what we see in the schools, especially in the neighborhoods that we're serving, is that we'll see parents will come maybe a week later, or sometimes even after Labor Day, and they'll return thinking, well, it was always after Labor Day before... So, we may see some of that happening, so we'll just continue to push it. I know you will.

Miriam: Yes. And Miriam Benitez for the record, Angela and I met with the Charter Authority, and they did tell us that, especially for the first year new charters, that it's very typical for enrollment to be low, and it will take some time to build up. So, they didn't seem worried about our numbers at all.

Heather: Also, just like, what I've heard from other parents is, like, oh [inaudible 00:21:41] you know, third, fourth, fifth grade, so I know that that's a huge thing that parents are looking forward to, is when they add the grade levels so that the older kids can join in.

Woman: Yeah.

Woman: That's what I've heard, so...

Lorna: Lorna Cervantes. That's really good information to have, because we know we have a plan to add one grade level in each year here, you know, sort of looking at enrollment, and what parents are asking for, we can always maybe come back and revisit that decision, and say maybe should we do faster rollout. [inaudible 00:22:11] we can always keep it in mind. So, good to have a parent who's got the ear to [inaudible 00:22:18] ground. Yeah.

Woman: [inaudible 00:22:19]

Lorna: Good.

Heather: I don't really converse with anyone, I just listen to what's going on.

Lorna: Great. Any other questions about the enrollment report at this time, or requirements? All right, thank you. So at this time, we'll move to item number eight. This is a report by the executive director, and discussion regarding the status of Critical Need Position Designation with Nevada PERs. So, Miriam?

Miriam: Miriam Benitez, for the record. And we have one of our backup documents, the letter that we received from the Nevada PERS where that was approved, the bilingual [inaudible 00:22:57] teacher position, and bilingual administrator for a period of two years.

Lorna: Awesome. All right. So, that's good news. [inaudible 00:23:09] make sure we continue to work, moving forward. Any questions about that application for the Critical Needs arm? That was pretty straightforward. Awesome. All right, so at this time, we're on item number nine. This a report by Kristin Dietz from EdTech on the budget and finance report update, including CSP grant.

Kristin: Good afternoon, board members. Can you hear me okay?

Lorna: Yes, we can.

Kristin: Great. Okay. So, I just wanted to share out we did provide financial statements to Miriam through June 30th, and that included the startup year financials through the end of the year. Total net income that's carrying over into this year is \$792,486, and cash balances at the end of June were \$689,805. And we did submit our first reimbursement request for CSP grant funding, and that request was sent earlier this week, and the total was just over \$120,000, so we have about \$629,000 remaining in the grant. And in future months, I'll have a PowerPoint presentation that will give you a good visual of where you are in terms of your actuals and your forecast, and then as well the CSP grant, and what remains by budget line item. So that's something that I'll be including, as we're now moving into the first year of operations.

I think that was pretty much it. We also prepared and presented to Miriam the bank reconciliations and check registers for the month, and we'll be doing that every month as well. So other than that, I don't have anything else to share today, unless anyone has any questions.

Lorna: Does anyone have a question for Kristin, regarding the EdTech reports, or the financial reports moving forward? It looks like we've already begun to request the reimbursement from our grant, so that's a great thing to know that that's moving forward, because that brings income back into our school budget. And I know that I have done a few [inaudible 00:25:33] some of the purchases, so I know the financial procedures that we put in place are in motion, and are moving forward as appropriate as well. Okay, I don't see any questions for you, Kristin. Thank you so much for joining us today, and for being on top of this. I know from how Miriam

has spoken how helpful you have been to her, and we really appreciate it. Thank you so much.

Kristin: Thank you. It's my pleasure.

Miriam: I just have a question here, or a comment. Miriam Benitez, for the record. I know in working with Kristin, the conversation has come up as to when we can expect the next deposit, because now that payroll is going to start hitting and the funds are running low, we want to make sure we have money in there when payroll starts hitting.

Lorna: And you're speaking of the money from the City?

Rocio: Rocio Martinez, for the record. Actually, I was going to reach out to Lorna regarding the next transfer of money from the City. So per the grant agreement, we will need a list of expected expenses from that grant, and then some kind of report about how the money has been spent thus far. So, I will... It's on the grant agreement that City Council approved back in June, so I will reach out to Lorna, as the board has to request the money from the City of Las Vegas, and we can proceed with that, and I'll work with our finance team, and we can get that done this month.

Lorna: Thank you, Rocio. This is Lorna Cervantes. So, Kristin and Miriam, if you would please just go ahead and give me that list of those pending expenses that we have coming forward, so that I can forward those on, or anything that you know that you have already spent beyond what we had already requested, then I will be able to respond to Rocio as soon as I get that request from her, and we'll move it forward. Were there any other questions or concerns on your part, financially?

Rocio: No.

Lorna: Okay. Thank you, Rocio. I'll look for that email. All right, so at this time, we've already spoken about item number 10, so we'll move to item number 11. This is a discussion for possible action to extend the executive director contract from 11 months to 12 months. I will say, Colleen, did you want to [inaudible 00:28:16]

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, board counsel. When Miriam...not talking about you like you're not here, but [inaudible 00:28:25] when Miriam was first hired, the expectation was it was going to be an 11-month contract as opposed to a 12-month contract. But as we have seen going forward, the requirements of the State Charter School Authority with respect to training and other requirements during summer,

there is some question as to whether [inaudible 00:28:49] for her to be gone for a month is really feasible. So, we do probably want to discuss whether we want to look at a 12-month contract, and of course that would require an additional month of pay for her as well. So, that seems to be where we are.

Lorna: Thank you, Colleen. Lorna Cervantes, for the record. I know, just for a little bit of background, most elementary principals that have worked for CCSD up to this point have been on 11-month contracts. They usually work August through June, and then have the month of July off, or somewhere in there. With the new start dates, it's been pushed back a little bit. And that's been typical, so that's what we expected when we did...thinking it'll just be what's typical in CCSD. But there have been multiple trainings that have been expected of Miriam throughout the month of July, as well as just the needs of moving a charter school forward. Another big difference is that she's the only administrator at the school. There's not an assistant principal, or somebody else who's able to fill in when she's gone. So, I move that I personally would support changing it to a 12-month contract, but making sure that we include in it, you know, the same opportunities for her to take the personal time off, like we did for the teachers. That's pretty typical, and I think that it would be inappropriate to [inaudible 00:30:24] but that would be an expense of an additional month, and we could figure out what it would be for the month.

I don't know if, Kristin, you might have for us what that dollar amount might possibly be, based on what the contract is, or if Miriam does? No? Okay. All right, that's it. Are there other questions or discussion from any of the members [inaudible 00:30:50]

Dacresha: Dacresha Harris, for the record. So, what would that look like? What does the executive director's leave look like? Is that...does it mirror the teachers, or does she have something extra?

Lorna: I think that should be a...Lorna Cervantes, I think that's a great question, and I think we should discuss that here tonight. I think at the minimum it should be that she should have the same number of days that the teachers do. I know that typically for administrators, they gain usually six personal days or personal time off days, plus vacation days in most schools, that they would accrue on a monthly basis. But, you know, that's really a discussion of the board to determine what we should offer, and I don't know if it would be appropriate, or if you would feel comfortable or not, Miriam, to tell us what you feel...

Dacresha: Dacresha Harris, for the record. I don't think it's appropriate for her to [crosstalk 00:31:48.107]

Lorna: Yeah, I don't think so, but I was going to say what she would feel, she would negotiate...yeah.

Woman: Miriam, could you please refresh my memory of what we decided on for the teachers?

Miriam: Yes. So if they're required to work the entire year, they'll be double [inaudible 00:32:06]

Lorna: Lorna Cervantes. I mean, I would agree with that, because she's working...the teachers are being paid for nine months out of the year, and she's [inaudible 00:32:15] twelve months out of the year, that would give her twenty days for the year. Would that be...would everyone else agree with that? Yeah, Dacresha, I think that's excellent. I think that's a great suggestion.

Heather: Heather Nay, for the record. Because you said that you're the only [inaudible 00:32:36] that she can't be there.

Lorna: This is Lorna Cervantes. And I know this is kind of our discussion, so we don't want to linger on it as though she's not in the room, but I don't want to put her on the spot, either. Usually, if there's not somebody in the building, then there's a responsible teacher, if school's in session, who would be a responsible person, and they could have someone that they could call in an emergency. The school is right by Las Vegas Academy, so I think building a good relationship with Las Vegas Academy, they have I think four or five assistant principals, plus a principal at that school. So, making a relationship with them, where they could say, hey, Scott, Mr. Walker is the principal, would it be possible to have someone just on call in case we need them for the day? I could make myself available, if I'm here, that they could call me if they needed to, too. Typically in a school, if the administrator is off campus, nobody does their job, basically. But you always...

Woman: [crosstalk 00:33:38.116]

Lorna: No. And really, you know, there have been times when an assistant principal and principal would both be gone from a CCSD school too, and [inaudible 00:33:47] talk about having someone on call for emergencies, and having responsible teachers is usually typical in those situations. Also, I can't speak for Miriam, and what she would do, but I know most administrators take their time

off when the students are off, and when the teachers are off, so like, during Christmas break, or during Spring Break they might take their time off, so that...because when you're gone, nobody does your work, and then it's still there to do when you get back. Does that answer your question?

Woman: It did. Yes, thank you very much.

Miriam: And to add, Miriam Benitez, for the record, one of our instructional coaches, he is a licensed...he has an administrative license, and so he also, part of his role is quasi-administrative, so he steps in if I'm not ever there. Mr. Morrow [SP].

Woman: Okay.

Lorna: That's good to know.

Woman: Yes, thank you.

Nicole: So, Nicole Thompson, for the record. Also, I will say as a teacher leader, our executive directors or principals, although they're off, they're never off. They never have vacation, so...this is what I've been told. So you know, if we want to extend that to a 12-month, you know, position, or 11-month, you know, it's worth it. It's worth, you know, the opportunity that she should be extended.

Lorna: Thank you.

Jaime: Jaime Gonzalez, for the record, with a question. Miriam's current...as you mentioned earlier, the typical span is August through June. So, is Miriam's current contract just starting on the 1st, and is right now through June 30th, 2023?

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, board counsel. Her contract began on July 1st, and would go [inaudible 00:35:51] so I guess June 30th.

Jaime: So, it's already one year?

Colleen: So, right...well, we haven't finalized the contract in writing, which is why we're having the discussion now. It was initially anticipated to be 11 months, but sort of as we're learning as we go with some of the charter school requirements, we wanted to raise the issue now so that we can get her contract squared away.

Jaime: So, it would be for one year [inaudible 00:36:25] next year at this time, or a little before, would we be looking at an 11-month contract, or would this 12-month

be [inaudible 00:36:33] the ongoing start, the ongoing, going forward for it? Or is that too soon to tell?

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, board counsel. Unless the Charter School Authority changes things dramatically, which I wouldn't expect to happen, I think we're likely looking at a 12-month contract for the executive director going forward.

Jaime: Okay, And just one final question, Jaime Gonzalez, for the record. Has the board, and maybe I'm forgetting this from previous meetings, since Miriam is the only one right now, do we have plans or have we discussed the possibility of having an assistant principal? And if so, would that then shift the thinking from 11 to...back from 12 to 11?

Lorna: This is Lorna Cervantes, and I can tell you, Jaime, that I from the start have been going back and forth in my mind, and even as we were doing the plan, thinking should there not be an assistant principal at the school. I don't think in the budget we can support it with the number of students we have right now, but I think it's something we should be willing to revisit once we have added additional grades and students to the school. Especially once we start adding the intermediate, and third, fourth, fifth grades, I think we should take a look at it at that time, and once our student enrollment, you know, goes over 200 or 250 students. What we did consider at that time is keeping the executive director with a 12-month contract, but bringing that assistant principal in at either a 10-month or an 11-month contract, because they wouldn't have to go to all the trainings, and things like [inaudible 00:38:27]

Jaime: That's helpful. Thank you for clarifying.

Lorna: You're welcome. And if other people have other thoughts, please speak up. But that's just kind of what the thought process was, as we were working through.

Woman: [inaudible 00:38:38] for the record. So, in this a contract, like year by year, just an annual thing that we'll have to talk about, or is there something where we could...are we just building it out in the first year? Like, what's the intent behind [inaudible 00:38:54]

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, board counsel. So, because we got the Critical Needs designation for the bilingual executive director position, that is only for two years, so we would not be able to enter into a contract for more than two years. We can seek that designation again as we're getting close to the end of the two years, and

as the climate changes, hopefully we would receive it. But we wouldn't be looking at anything more than two years, and the initial discussions with Miriam were for one year.

Lorna: This is Lorna Cervantes. And a lot of times, what we could do, too, is offer anybody who's already into school, that is doing a great job for us, and Miriam says yes, you know, teacher-wise, yes, we should continue with these teachers, we can offer them, okay, would you like to work again next year, yep, and just...it makes it a really easy process to continue to employ them. And we can look at a similar process with our executive director, where if we're happy with the work she's doing, and we anticipate that we will be, then at the end of the year, we can say we would like you to come back, would you be willing to come back another year? So even though you signed the [inaudible 00:40:15] you know, you could have them sign the contract on a yearly basis, it could just be that they move forward, as similar to this same contract year by year. Or are you thinking it would be better to...?

Woman: I just was thinking, like, if we were able to add an option year, where we could elect to add a year, or something to that nature. Not necessarily set in stone, but just so we didn't necessarily have to... Because I have to yearly contracts in my other life all the time, and it seems like it comes up so quickly.

Lorna: Okay.

Woman: Yeah.

Lorna: So would that be your recommendation, that we do a year-contract, with an option to add an additional year?

Woman: If the board would [inaudible 00:40:58]

Lorna: Okay. Alain?

Alain: [inaudible 00:41:02]

Lorna: Okay.

Alain: Yeah.

Lorna: Okay. And Alee, Dr. Moore, do you have input as far as this goes?

Dr. Moore: No, no additional input.

Lorna: Okay. So, it sounds like what we have recommended is that we...is that we do include a 12-month contract for our executive director, rather than an 11-month contract, and that contract should include 20 personal time off days for the executive director, and that we could include an option for an additional year, to be agreed upon at the end of this first year. Does that seem like what we agreed to?

Woman: [inaudible 00:41:59]

Lorna: Okay. Is there somebody that would [crosstalk 00:42:03.034] Yes, Nicole? Thank you. Is there somebody who'd like to...or I can restate it as a motion, and somebody could second. So this Lorna Cervantes. I move that we create a 12-month contract with our executive director, to include 20 personal time off days, and an option for an additional year-contracts at the end of the first contract year, pending agreement with the executive director and the board.

Dacresha: Dacresha Harris [inaudible 00:42:39] I second.

Lorna: Thank you. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

Lorna: Sorry, that was fast. Any opposed? Okay, the motion passes. All right, so congratulations, Miriam. We'll definitely [inaudible 00:42:56] timeframe, and I'll get it together as quickly as we can. At this time, item number 12, to be reported by the executive director, regarding the pre-opening and conditional approval of Strong Start Academy.

Miriam: Miriam Benitez, for the record. We have...one of our backup documents is a letter from the State Public Charter School Authority, and in there it outlines the conditional approval because we have not yet received our nursing cot. It's delayed, so we're expecting it the first week of September. So they had us identify temporary arrangements until the cot arrives.

The other item is the state and federal posters or notifications that have to be posted in the teacher either work room or lunch area, those also have not arrived, but I'm anticipating we should get those soon, because those were coming through the United States Postal Service, and we did find out that there was a vacation hold on the property, and that's why...part of the problem, after the forwarding issue was resolved, then we discovered there was a vacation hold. So, we should be receiving those posters soon.

And then of course our background checks, we have some employees that they just received their fingerprinting today, and we're anticipating not having fingerprints for anywhere between five to seven weeks, and then we have made arrangements that those staff members are always accompanied by someone that is licensed.

Lorna: Otherwise, everything on the pre-opening checklist has been completed, correct?

Miriam: Yes.

Lorna: All right. Thank you. And Lorna Cervantes, for the record, we also included just for your information the reports from the Southern Nevada Health District, stating what needed to be done at the school, just in case anyone wanted to take a look at those.

Woman: [inaudible 00:45:19]

Miriam: Yeah, that's [inaudible 00:45:21]

Lorna: Oh, I apologize. That's a separate item.

Miriam: The very next one.

Lorna: Okay, so why don't we move to number 13, unless someone has a question? All right, this is a report by the executive director, regarding the status of the Southern Nevada Health District inspection conducted at Strong Start Academy.

Miriam: Miriam Benitez, for the record. The permits were approved, we had minimal items to fix, and the City of Las Vegas has already been out to the school and fixed probably the majority of them. So, let me see...the sanitizer in the kitchen, we needed to order dispensers to be installed in the kitchen, those have been ordered. And along with that are the sanitizer [inaudible 00:46:15] that is the only corrective action we had, I believe. Oh, and the thermometer. We needed a stem thermometer, and we ordered that, already have that, and that was the only thing we had going on in the kitchen. And then in terms of the school, it was just very minor things, like many of the faucets are censored and automatic, and some of them, the water doesn't come out quick enough, or it doesn't run long enough, so simple things like that. There is a sandbox that when it was very windy, the tarp that was over it blew over, so there were some [inaudible 00:47:00] in there, so they went ahead and covered it. They cleaned it out, and covered it with wood

planks, so now even on a windy day, we don't have to worry about that blowing over. So again, just very minor things, which all have been corrected.

Lorna: Okay. Thank you. Are there any questions or concerns from any of the board members? This is Lorna. The only other thing I noticed was there was a reference to the one room, the floor in the multipurpose room. Do we have any updates as to the work being done on that?

Miriam: So, Angela can speak to that. She's our official facilities person.

Angela: Is that what we're going with? or we're going in with Angela Rose, City of Las Vegas, for the record. Lots of the work that has been done in the last few weeks with facilities has been in conjunction with Miriam and the school team, as well as the current property manager, and City of Las Vegas facility staff. So, we're kind of in that weird space in between ownership and not ownership, so to meet Health District requirements, the City staff was very involved to make sure that we did meet all these minimum requirements, and we were at service whenever needed.

But with the flooring, once we do take ownership, our facilities team is looking at flooring options. As you know, there's a supply shortage, and so the area, the surface area is really large, and they're also anticipating some structural work underneath the floor that's causing it to buckle, and so they're kind of doing some preliminary work on that right now. But once we do take official ownership, we'll get in there with a design plan, and we can bring it back to the board once we get a final option.

Lorna: Thank you. Any other questions or concerns? Thank you very much, everybody. Great job of getting things together at the school facility. And I think...I know I went and had a little tour, and Alain did too, and I hope several others as well, so if you haven't had the chance, please make sure you stop by and see the school in person. So at this time, moving to action...sorry, item number 14 [inaudible 00:49:21] for possible action regarding the creation of a COVID-19 policy.

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, board counsel. So, we did have a nurse that we have contracted with, and the nurse has a policy which is consistent with the current CDC guidance, which is expected to change here shortly [crosstalk 00:49:49.531] I knew it was coming soon, so we'll need to adjust that. So, the policy that the nurse that we've contracted with is essentially following existing CDC guidelines.

Additionally, we got the colored handouts that you have in your packet from State Charter School Authority, which were created by the Nevada [inaudible 00:50:13] which basically also just mirrors the CDC guidelines. I think the big takeaway is, you know, if you contract COVID, you are to stay home for five days either from onset of symptoms, or if you're asymptomatic, from a positive test. And then after the five days, if you've gone 24 hours without fever, you can return to your normal activities, provided you wear a mask for the next I think six to ten days. So, that's the guidance at this time. But we wanted to bring it before the board to see if the pleasure of the board was to stick with the guidance and follow that, or if there were any alterations that it wanted to make. So, if anyone has any thoughts about that, now's your chance.

Heather: Honestly, as a parent, I think it's personal choice. So I think as long as you guys stick with, like the CDC guidelines, then everything should be okay, because if you guys go enforce something that the parents don't want to do, it's going to be an issue. Me, I don't care. The more protection, the better. I'm concerned my son's not wearing a mask, I'm like...but you know, so it's more of, like, a very personal thing, and parents seem to overreact when it comes to forcing them to do something that's not recommended by the CDC. And so, I think that it's best that we just go with their guidelines, and if anyone wants to do extra, they're more than welcome to.

Lorna: Anyone else? Lorna Cervantes, anyone else? Nicole, you looked like you were wanting to speak up. No, you're good?

Nicole: I was waiting to hear from our parent representative, because it really is about the students. We've got to keep the students first, and keep it a student-centered, you know, focus. We've got to protect the babies. And again, if it's, you know, in the CDC guidelines, I'm all good. And I think that's the same protocol that we're providing our students in Clark County School District.

Lorna: This is Lorna Cervantes, and I would agree with both of you as well, that as long as we're following CDC guidelines, I'm okay. And having a nurse do the work with us, and having contracted with a nurse, I feel comfortable moving forward. And I can say that especially at the ages of the children that we have in school right now, so much of their learning has to be in person, and it has to be where they're engaging and socializing with others, so the more we can keep the kids in school, the better we are, and I think if we follow these guidelines, we're doing what we need to.

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, board counsel. So if someone wants to make a motion that the school's policy will be whatever is the current CDC guidelines, I'll draft something simple up for [inaudible 00:53:32]

Woman: [inaudible 00:53:35] for the record, that the school follows the CDC guideline when it comes to COVID-19.

Man: [inaudible 00:53:43] I'll second.

Lorna: Thank you [inaudible 00:53:45] and seconded that we follow the CDC guidelines at this school. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

Lorna: Any opposed? Okay, that motion passed. At this time, this is the opportunity for citizen participation [inaudible 00:54:08] during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the board. No subject may be acted upon by the board unless the subject is on the agenda, and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward. I don't see anybody in this room or online. Myself, Lorna Cervantes, I would just like to remind everybody that hopefully you all had an opportunity to attend the board governance training, and please make sure that you have let Alain know that you have participated in that training so that he can make sure that we're all in compliance with that expectation from the Charter Authority.

And with that, I think we can move to adjournment at this time. All right, thank you, everybody. Appreciate it.

Man: Thank you.

Lorna: All right, bye-bye.

Woman: Bye, everyone.

Lorna: Goodbye. Thank you.