

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

Miriam Benitez, Executive Director



Strong Start Academy Board Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2023
5:00 PM

CLV Strong Start Academy Elementary Schools, Inc. Board Meeting – April 13th, 2023

Lorna: [inaudible 00:00:01] with Nicole on board. I'm not sure who was on the phone before. Was that one of you that were on the phone and on the computer or was that someone else? Maybe someone else. We'll see if they come back in. All right, we'll go ahead. We'll call the meeting to order at this time at 5:07 p.m. And I will go ahead and start with roll. This is Lorna James-Cervantes for the record. Jamie Gonzales?

Jamie: Present.

Lorna: Meli Pulido.

Meli: Present.

Lorna: Heather Nay.

Heather: Present.

Lorna: Alain Bengochea, not present. Nicole Thompson.

Nicole: Present.

Lorna: Dachresha Harris, not present. Alee Moore.

Dr. Moore: Present.

Lorna: Okay. Thank you, Alee. And thank you, everybody, for being here and for being patient with the technical difficulties as we were starting tonight. I know it's difficult, and that's one of the reasons I think meeting in person as much as we can is very helpful to the meetings. But we realized that we wanted to make sure that we have the online option for those who are unable to do so.

We will start the meeting by just reminding everybody that this meeting is being recorded in compliance with the open meeting law. At this time is public comment during this portion of the agenda. Public comment must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, please come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time of any single speaker, is allowed will be limited to two minutes, absent board approval. Is there any public comment at this time? And no public comments sent in via email or in another form.

Woman: Correct. No public comments.

Lorna: Okay. Thank you. Given that, we will move on to item number four of our agenda then. For possible action to approve the final minutes by reference of the March 9th, 2023 board meeting. I hope you all had the opportunity to review the transcript of that meeting. I'm seeing headshakes. Yes, you did. So, given that, are there any corrections or additions to those minutes? If not, I would appreciate a motion to approve them as written.

Jamie: Jamie Gonzales. For the record, I move that we approve the meeting minutes from March 9th, 2003, as submitted.

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

Nicole: Nicole Thompson, I second that motion.

Lorna: Thank you. All those in favor?

Woman: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Lorna: Any opposed? Okay, that motion passed. Thank you. Thank you. That motion passes. All right. We do have two guests on tonight. And if it would be okay with you, I would appreciate it if we could go to item number 11 next. This is the item

regarding board training opportunities, and I ask if you wouldn't mind us doing this because our guest, Ryan, is here from BoardOnTrack and he is on Eastern Standard Time. So it's after 8:00 there.

So, Meli, would you like to please just introduce this item for us and help the board to understand what it's about?

Meli: Sure. In the last meeting, we discussed the need for some kind of possible training opportunities that we can include when requested in various grants. And in consulting with BoardOnTrack, I spoke to Ryan a couple of times and asked what are other boards seeing in their training guidelines and facilitating throughout the year for their board members. And he did present some items to consider. A yearlong agreement, for one. And I kind of like the idea of everything is based on an assessment that is provided for all board members and any other administrative staff as included.

And then all of the training is based on what our weaknesses are to be able to elevate ourselves to being the best board possible. There is an onboarding process for new board members and there is online self-paced training, from what I understand. So we can achieve what is set for the standards of a good board and then go above and beyond based on our individual weaknesses.

So I know Ryan is here. And correct me or add as you need to, Lorna.

Lorna: Okay, thank you, Meli. This is Lorna. Ryan, is there anything that you would add to what Meli told us about the proposal that you offered to us as we spoke to you?

Ryan: Not too much. For this meeting, that's all I'm gonna have at this point. But all I'll really add is that what we're proposing is outside of the training itself is BoardOnTrack is, you'll see, the platform is where all of that training, a lot of it's going to live. And you'll be paired up with one of our governance coaches.

So and to what Meli was saying, there's a lot of self-service training and then throughout the year, our governance goes to [inaudible 00:06:04] to schedule that training kind of at your leisure. You know, as much as you want, what you want. It's really up to you. And all of that will live inside of BoardOnTrack that you'll have access to at all times. So that's about it.

Lorna: Okay. Thank you, Ryan. And the other thing is, so you have two documents in front of you. One is the agreement for the use of the BoardOnTrack software. And the second is basically just a summary that some of the BoardOnTrack members have

basically written for us that we can submit also to the Charter Authority to explain to them the training that we would be providing to the board.

So this is in compliance with the ask that we set priorities as a board and that we set out an outline for the training that the board could participate in throughout the coming 12 months. Are there any questions from board members about this or any comments?

Miriam: Miriam Benitez, for the record, I just like to add that I did reach out to Opportunity 180, and I asked if we can amend one of our goals, which is in regard to professional development for the staff. And I asked if we could include the board as part of the staff in providing professional development. And they approved us moving forward with that amendment, so then we would be able to hopefully fund that through that grant.

Lorna: Thank you for that. So we do have funding. So it wouldn't be that each board member would be paying for this training themselves, but it would be paid for through that Opportunity. 180 grant. So if there was anyone who had that concern, I want to make sure that's clear as well.

Also, I did ask Ryan about the possibility of doing a board retreat. I attended some of, I think, two or three of the trainings that were completed. And I remember the committee training that was provided by BoardOnTrack was one of the opportunities. So it was emailed out to all of us. It was very good training. And that's just an example of some of the training they would do.

They do board retreats. If that's something that we are interested in doing in the summer, at the beginning of next year, that helps us to set our goals for the year, that would be an additional cost to this training. But it is something that they can provide as well.

Hearing no questions or discussions. If it's okay with all of you, I would like to propose a motion that we would accept the license agreement for training from BoardOnTrack and partnering with them to provide board training for the coming school year and that we would work with them in the future so that all of our board members are able to comply with the training. Is there a second to that motion?

Jamie: Jamie Gonzales, for the record. I second that motion.

Lorna: Thank you. It has been moved and seconded that we would approve the agreement with BoardOnTrack for training. All those in favor?

Man: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Lorna: Any opposed? Okay. Hearing no one in opposition, that has passed. Ryan, I will sign this and get the agreement back to you tomorrow so that we could go ahead and start this work. And I appreciate your time with us tonight. And I will also get back to you on the board retreat as well.

Ryan: Excellent. Thank you. Thank you for inviting me. And if you have any other questions, feel free to reach out.

Lorna: We will. Thank you so much for attending with us tonight as well.

Ryan: Of course. Have a good evening.

Lorna: You too. Thank you. And at this time, we will go ahead and move back to agenda item number five. And, Kristin, thank you for waiting patiently for us. And we always like to try to find those where we have a speaker, try to put those at the beginning of our agenda. So item number five is a report by Kristin Dietz from Ed Tech on our budget and financial reports, including the CSP [SP] grant.

Kristin: Great, thank you so much. This is Kristin Dietz for the record. And I'm going to share the screen. Here we go. Hopefully, you can see it now. Let's see. Can you see the screen okay?

Lorna: Yes, we can.

Kristin: Great. Okay. So we have the financial presentation with actuals through February, and we also have a tentative budget to share with you this evening. In terms of the current forecast, we are now forecasting a net income of just under \$1,000 positive for the year. That's \$502 forecasted. This is a nice increase from what we had last month forecasted, which was a negative \$97,000. We originally were budgeted to be tapping into our carryover reserve.

But at this point, we did have some increases this month, particularly around some savings and expenses. As we went through the budget review process for next year's budget, we did a deep dive of all expenses that hadn't been incurred yet. And there were a number of supplies and other, mostly supplies, I noted that we don't anticipate purchasing by June 30th. So we did have a pretty significant increase in net income as

a result of the reduced expenses there. And also, I'll turn to the next slide here, this is a change from January to the February forecast.

The other big change was that we were awarded a grant, the City of Las Vegas ARPA grant, and that's \$120,000, of which \$77,000 of that will be spent this year. So we've included the revenue and the expenses related to that grant.

Also, we did have a couple of positions in the budget that the school does not anticipate hiring before June 30th. So we were able to remove those positions and that created an additional savings.

And then the last item that was positive and helpful for the increase this time around was that the school received some additional nutrition funding under the Supply Chain Assistance Grant, Funding Program, and that was about \$6,300 that was not previously budgeted. So overall, a nice increase from last month to this month. And we're now forecasting just under \$1,000 of net income.

In terms of our year-to-date actuals, we have received 63% of our revenues and we've incurred 55% of our forecasted expenses as of February. And so we're on track with our latest forecast in all areas. The balance sheet shows total cash balances of \$1,045,000 in total assets of the planned \$82,364. So cash balances are remaining really strong.

And here's the month-over-month cash balance and forecasted cash. We are expecting to see the cash balances go down a little bit as we go towards the end of the year because we have received all of the City of Las Vegas grant funding that we should be getting for this year. And so those payments...or the last payment is being received in April and then we'll be utilizing our cash reserves getting into the last three months of the school year. But we're still expected to end the year with a strong cash balance of about \$586,000, which would represent 69 days cash on hand. So that's really favorable.

In terms of our grants, we have the schedule here showing all of our current grants. Total grants are \$967,000. We have spent about \$394,000 and we have about \$86,000 in reimbursements that were pending as of the end of February. One good comment to make about the grants this time around is that we finally got approved for our Titles I through IV and our IDEA. So we're now able to request reimbursements on those funds. And we've spent the majority of the Title 1 funds, we spent all the Title II funds and we have yet to spend a little bit of Title III. But overall, we will be submitting reimbursement requests for these funds by the 15th of April.

This next slide is our CSP grant and it shows the total grant as well as what has been submitted to date under this grant. And since it's so large, we like to always just keep you informed of where we are in terms of status and what remains of the grant balance.

So we have \$413,000 of this grant remaining. And as Mary mentioned, there is going...I think we'll have a couple of amendments that will change some of these balances. But overall, this is what is remaining as of the end of February. Are there any questions on the forecast before I turn to the tentative budget?

Lorna: This is Lorna. I don't see anyone in the room asking or online asking questions. So I think we could go ahead and move on to item number six. This a discussion for possible action to approve the tentative 2023, '24 budget.

Kristin: Okay, great. So I'll just go through the assumptions that are in the current budget. The first slide here has the revenue assumptions and all of the revenues that are coming from the state are going to be based on enrollment and eligible student counts. And so the revenue drivers are shown above at the top here. We are estimating 180 students for next year.

And in terms of the federal revenues at this point, the SDCSA has given us estimated preliminary entitlements in the Titles I through IV, but they are coming in basically the same as the current year. We do expect that the Title funding will increase once they get the updated student counts in the fall. But for now, in this tentative budget, we're maintaining a conservative approach and just seeing all of the Title funding flat in comparison to the current year funding. So we do expect it to increase, but we'll also, once we have increased expenses to offset it.

Woman: I apologize.

Kristin: And then the nutrition program, we do have the nutrition revenue going up based on the student count going up. So we're using a per-student amount based on this year's actuals. And so we'll see an increase there due to the increase in students and there are offsetting expenses that are matching this revenue in the budget.

In terms of the CSP grant, we have the remaining amount that is expected to be spent next year included along with all of the related expenses in the budget. One thing I will note is we have about \$500,000 in CSP grant funds in the current year's forecast and we may not spend all of it this year. And whatever we don't spend, both the

revenue and the expenses will carry over to next year. So we may see some of this \$500,000 rollover along with the related expenses.

The ARP ESSER [SP] grant was a one-time grant that we received this year and we expect to spend and not have a similar grant next year. And then we have the City of Las Vegas ARPA grant, which is \$120,000 that I previously mentioned, including based on when we expect the timing of those expenses to occur.

In terms of the state revenues, the PCFP based funding makes up the majority of our state revenue. And currently, the rate this year for this funding was \$7,293 per average daily enrollment. And as you may know, we're in the middle of legislative sessions right now and we do not know the exact amount of increase expected, but we do know there is likely to be a pretty significant increase in this funding. It could be as much as \$1,500 per student.

What we've included in this budget is an estimate of 10% increase over the current year. So it's just to give a conservative estimate until we have more information. And we're told that we should have a better idea of what the rate by the end of May. So hopefully, we'll have it before we have to do the final budget. But if not, then we will continue to have a conservative estimate and then update it once we have the final information.

In addition to PCFP based funding, now that the school will be in its second year and we'll have some historical data, they will have access to the weighted EL and FRL funding as well as the state's special ed funding. So these are estimated amounts per eligible student that they'll be receiving based on the prior year student counts. In addition to that, we have City of Las Vegas grant funding that's committed that is part of the large grant commitment by the city.

And then in terms of our expenses, we've included here a list of the major expenses. The largest is salaries, which makes up about 55% of your overall salaries and benefits make up about actually probably closer to 60% of overall expenses. And then we just outlined some of the other large expenses here.

At the back of the presentation, there is a very detailed tentative budget that gives you line-by-line details of every expense that is in this budget, but I just highlighted the major ones here. And then in terms of where this budget lands us, the tentative budgeted net income for next year is at \$46,355. Based on these assumptions, we expect to have a carryover fund balance going into next year of about \$795,000, which would leave us the end of next year with a fund balance of \$841,000, which is

about a 26% reserve. So a very, very strong financial outlook based on these assumptions.

And this tentative budget is just that. It's very tentative. We will also be submitting a final budget which will be voted on at the May meeting and will need to be submitted by June 8th. But this tentative budget is being reviewed by the board and then it needs to be submitted by Monday the 17th. Any questions on the tentative budget?

Lorna: This is Lorna. I'm just giving a little bit of wait time to see if any of the members signal that they have a question or comment about the budget. I'm not seeing any at this time, Kristin. This is Lorna. No questions at this time from any of the board members. However, it is important that we do take a vote on this tentative budget to approve it so that it can be submitted by Monday. Is there a member who would like to make an amendment...sorry, a motion that we approve this tentative budget as presented?

Meli: Meli Palito, I make a motion to approve the tentative budget as it is presented.

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

Nicole: Nicole Thompson, I second that motion.

Lorna: Thank you. So it's been moved and seconded that we approve the tentative 2023, '24 budget as presented. All those in favor?

Group: Aye.

Lorna: Any opposed? Okay. That motion passes. And we appreciate the work that both you and Miriam did on this budget, Kristin. And we look forward to the outcomes of the legislator session. It's our hope, or my hope at least, that we see not only a large increase in per pupil funding, but that we see some movement in the area of staff, student weighted funding formula as well, because that would greatly assist all schools in meeting the needs of who may qualify in multiple categories of waiting. So thank you very much.

All right, at this time, we'll go to item number seven. This is a discussion for possible action to discuss the election of board officers going forward and to elect new board officers. So all of the current board officers were elected at a meeting about a year ago. Lorna James-Cervantes as the president, Alain Bengochea as the secretary, and then originally Sylvia Lazos was treasurer, but she was replaced by Jamie Gonzales at our January board meeting.

So at this time, we need to hold an election for new officers. We did reach out to all of the current officers. They are all willing to continue to serve in this capacity unless there's another board member who says, "No, I think that I would like to step up and nominate myself." Or if one of you would like to nominate someone else for one of those officer positions and we'd be happy to take those nominations at this time.

Hearing and seeing no movement on that front, I would... This is Lorna Cervantes. I will make a motion that we approve the continuation of the current board officers by acclamation of the board. Is there a second to that motion?

Jaime: Jaime Gonzales, for the record, I second that motion.

Lorna: All those in favor?

Woman: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Lorna: Any opposed?

Dr. Moore: Aye.

Lorna: Alee, yours was on the I agree side, correct? There was a slight delay in the connection, so I just wanna make sure.

[crosstalk 00:26:02]

Lorna: Okay.

Dr. Moore: I think our officers are doing a wonderful job. If they want to continue, I think they should do so.

Lorna: Thank you. And Colleen?

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, Board Counsel. So the bylaws indicate that we're supposed to hold elections annually, but it doesn't explain what annually means. So annually could be calendar year, annually could be school year, annually could be from the date you're elected. We don't necessarily have to specify it, but I just wanted you all to know that in case you do want to sort of set a more specific time because you think it would be beneficial to set elections going forward.

Lorna: This is Lorna. So given that information, is there anybody who believes there might be a better time of year to hold the elections for a year, knowing that the current officers would begin at this given time, at the May meeting, and then move through the next year? Would it be more advantageous in the future to say we hold the elections at the beginning of a school year, like, first month of the year? Or are we happy with this time of the year? Does anyone see any downsides to the way it currently is?

Meli: Meli Palito. I'm too new to give an opinion, but if it seems to have been working in May, why change it? But I do see the need to identify what annual means because we're not always going to be on this board to know the month that it renews.

Lorna: So this is Lorna. Do you have a suggestion as to what that maybe should be?

Meli: If you're renewing in May, I say we keep in May, and that has been working.

Lorna: Based on your comment, Meli, would it be important to maybe make an amendment to the bylaws to say that elections would be held annually in April with the new officers to begin in May? Or do we say that elections would be held in May with the new officers to begin their work, say, in June for the following school year? Or is there no need to amend it. Just leave it as it is.

Jaime: Jaime Gonzales for the record. For me, it's sort of six one way, half dozen the other. I think the one thing that I'm mulling over as to what would be helpful to a new board member is either at the beginning of their term, and it may be better towards the end where they've had a chance to sort of experience a full year, how they get to participate in just what we did today with the budgeting and any inputs to the budgeting.

So I'm fine with the way it is right now, but I think if you have elections in April, installation in May, then you'll get enough of that year under your belt to be able to contribute as needed or as appropriate to the budgeting discussion as well as other things. So April to May I think are perfectly fine.

Lorna: Okay. Thank you, Jaime.

Dr. Moore: Dr. Alee Moore for the record. Does it all need to correspond with terms or, like, term limits? Would that move take into account, say for instance, if I decided to be an officer and then my time is up next month? Would we take that into account as well?

Lorna: This is Lorna. I think we would have to take that into account, that you would have to be able to serve out the term of that year as an officer because it is a year-long term. With the exception being, say, a person finds something happens and a person is no longer on the board mid-year. Not because of a terming out, but for some other reason, as we had this past year with a resignation.

Dr. Moore: Yeah. And I asked that question not knowing your term is up, but I know that at the last meeting, there was a mention that depending on how you're seated on the board, you know, if it's based on... What is it? If it's based on some... Like, if the mayor placed you on the board or [inaudible 00:31:25], you may be unseated not even knowing ahead of time.

Lorna: This is Lorna. I understand what you mean, because we do know that some of the seats on the board are based on elected official positions. And then, if that person is no longer in office, then the next person elected to that seat has a right to either keep that person or replace them on this board. So I think that would be something we would take into consideration when making those decisions.

All right. So this is Lorna. This has been a good discussion about the question of bylaws. Currently, as is, we are holding the elections in April, installation of those officers by the May meeting. It doesn't sound like there seems to be a concern about that timing during the year. Colleen, do you have any recommendation that we would need to make a change to the bylaws to make that clear, or do you feel that it's clear enough within the bylaws?

Colleen: So as the lawyer, the way it's written gives you a lot of flexibility. So I don't know if you want to change it or not. It's really up to you all whether you want to more clearly define it. The tricky part is everybody's been appointed at different times and your terms all end at different times. So having that flexibility might actually be helpful.

Lorna: This is Lorna. I was thinking that based on what you're saying, it might be in our best interest to just leave it as is and not make a change. And that way, if something does happen or terms start to become more flexible because of those elections of the city council members or something like that, maybe we're better off leaving it as is.

Okay. Well, hearing no desire by the board to make a change to the bylaws, we will leave them as they are. And if we need, though, in the future to come back to that question, we definitely can.

At this time, we'll move to item number eight. This is a discussion for possible action to approve the first amendment to the resolution ratifying the signatory authority of Bank of America with the Bank of America amendment, and to authorize the president to execute the agreement. So basically, what this is the original signatories on our bank account at the school are Miriam as the Executive Director. It was Sylvia Lazos as our Treasurer and then myself as the President. We need to amend that with our current treasurer.

ou have a copy of the amendment that was drafted in front of you. And what we really need is just a decision to adopt the amendment as written and to change the secretary's name from Dr. Sylvia Lazos to Jamie Gonzales.

Jamie: So, Jamie Gonzales, for the record. One change to the document would be in the second paragraph, my last name is spelled with a Z and down below in the last paragraph, it's spelled with an S. It should be spelled with an S at the end.

Lorna: Oh, very good.

Jamie: I figured if I'm going to be signing for something then [crosstalk 00:34:59]. Oh, you're not Jamie Gonzales.

Lorna: Okay. We'll make sure that correction is made.

Jamie: Otherwise, it's perfect.

Lorna: Okay. Thank you. So, Jamie, with that change, are you comfortable? Well, I guess I should say this is Lorna. I will move that with that given amendment to the document that we approve the first amended resolution ratifying the signatory authority of the bank account with Bank of America. Is there a second to that motion?

Meli: Meli Palito, I second.

Lorna: Thank you. All those in favor?

Group: Aye.

Lorna: Any opposed? All right, that motion carries. And as soon as we get that correction, I will make sure it's signed and forwarded. And with that, is that all we need? Or will we need to make an appointment at Bank of America to take the information and get a signatory card signed by...

Miriam: Miriam Benitez for the record. From the last time that we had to add and then remove a person, we know that they told us that all three of us had to be there. So I would assume that this calls for the same.

Lorna: Okay. So, Miriam, knowing that you have the tightest...well, I don't know. Jamie's schedule is pretty tight, too, I'm sure. If you would like to have us work, maybe Amanda, could you work with the three of us just to set that appointment at Bank of America so that we can get that taken care of.

Amanda: Sure.

Lorna: All right. Thank you. Okay. At this time, I think we can... I'm double-checking one thing. We can move on to item number nine. This is a presentation by board council regarding the revisions of Section Six of the Strong Start Academy Financial Policies and Procedures and discussion for possible action to adopt and revise section six.

Please remember that we went over this policy in detail at our meeting in March, and we detailed several corrections to be made and that's why you have the red-lined copy as well. I think, I know that, at least electronically, we also have the final...

Amanda: It's attached.

Lorna: Oh, sorry. It's behind it. I was thinking it was more than one page. I apologize, Amanda. So we have both the red-lined and the regular copy of it. So, Colleen.

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, Board Counsel. I believe I have incorporated all of the changes we discussed. We've changed the procedure with regard to the amount of money at issue. So anything between \$25,000 and \$50,000 will require the approval of the board president, the executive director, and the treasurer. That was one of the items we discussed.

We also added... That's good. There it is. We also added the notice provision that we talked about. So for those items that don't require board approval, for \$25,000 to \$50,000, either Miriam can send a notice to the board as it's occurring, or we can put sort of a notice item on the next agenda just to keep everybody in the loop as to what we're spending in that range of amount of money.

And then the other change is that anything in the amount of \$50,000 does require board approval. And in the event of a sole source contract, the executive director will provide additional information regarding the selection process, including what steps

were taken to identify any other providers. And those are the main changes. Hopefully, I didn't forget anything.

Lorna: This is Lorna. Thank you for that, Colleen. I think those are the changes that I remember. I hope everyone had an opportunity to review before the meeting today. Is there any discussion or are there any questions at this point? And if there are none, then we need a motion to accept the procedures as amended and presented.

Jamie: This is Jamie Gonzales for the record. I move that we accept as written and presented section six of the Strong Start Academy Financial Policies and Procedures document.

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

Woman: This is [inaudible 00:40:15]. I second the motion.

Lorna: Okay, so it's been moved and seconded that we approve the amended and presented section six of the Strong Start Academy Financial Policies and Procedures document. All those in favor?

Man: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Lorna: Any opposed? That motion passes. Thank you. Item number 10. At this time, this is a discussion regarding the risk based on site monitoring report conducted by the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority. Really, this is just an opportunity for us to have notice of the report that was sent back to the school regarding on-site monitoring reports that was conducted. Miriam, are there any highlights that you would like to point out on this report? And if not, it's okay.

Miriam: Miriam Benitez for the record. The only thing, just in case you guys are questioning, on the back, they did include a response that I submitted because in part of... Let me see. So on page...on section five, where it says, "Additional information attachments," where it read, "Monitoring report note COV Strong Start Academy did not comply with the SPCSA's 8:00 a.m. January 30th, 2023 deadline for submitting required policies and procedures 48 hours prior to the onsite visit."

So I just responded to that because we had a meeting. And at that meeting, I was informed that I would receive an email with all the documents that were required 48 hours in advance, and that was not part of what they asked for. So I did... I was a little bothered by that statement when they say, "You did not comply." "I absolutely did comply. You didn't ask for that." So I just was trying to be kind and give them feedback in the future, they might be a little bit more clear about what they're asking so there wouldn't be this misunderstanding.

So I just was not appreciative of the wording in that because it made it seem like I didn't do my part, which I did. They just weren't clear on their instructions. That's all.

Lorna: Thank you. Having reviewed this document, are there any concerns or questions from any board members? This is Lorna. I just want to point out that I'm really thankful to the job that both you and Kristin do in tracking our financials and making sure that we're in compliance with the work that's being done. I know that also our special ed programming is being done within compliance of the law, and we really appreciate the work.

Miriam: Thank you.

Lorna: All right, thank you. With that, we can move on to item number 12. This is a report by the executive director on the status of the ongoing marketing efforts, open enrollment, and recruiting. And you do have a document titled recruiting that you could follow along on if you would like.

Miriam. Yeah. So Miriam Benitez for the record. And as our activities are growing and our efforts, I thought we need to just capture this on a document. So I've listed the upcoming tabling events. We have FAM [SP] Jam on April 15th. On April 22nd, we have two different activities going on at the same time, which I'll be at one, and then the outreach coordinator will be at the other one. And then we have April 29th, the Children's Day Festival.

Graphica [SP], to answer Jamie's question last week that I forgot to answer it by the end of meeting, here it is. The digital campaign is running on Google, YouTube, and Facebook. And then we started work with the Bloomwell Group. And the Bloomwell Group, we're working, partnering with them through Opportunity 180. Opportunity 180 is funding that. And we've met a few times. They've also met with Edgar.

And so here's just bullet points of what we're doing with them. We're going to have a May 10th open house for all incoming new families and prospective families that are

curious or interested to visit the school. They pulled a targeted marketing list that identified 6200 families that were within our target area. They want to work with Edgar to create an event landing page for that May 10th open house. And we're having digital ads promoting that and sending out mailers to 2,000 families.

Then they talk about the postcard they're going to create and an event graphic, and then they want to put banners and yard signs up also. Our enrollment, we are 95%. So we'll start with our existing families. Of our existing families, 95% have registered to return. We have two siblings that they're moving out of state, so they won't be back, and two students that haven't responded. So we're excited about that return rate.

Then, for our new enrollment, we're 71% there. We have 83 students who've completed the applications. And of those 83 students, nine students are not eligible because of age. So they're either...most of them are not kinder-age ready or we've had folks that have applied for, like, a fourth or fifth grader, not realizing we're not up there yet. Five families have declined. Seventeen are non-responses, which we continue to try to reach out to them. And 52 of that, originally 83, have registered.

And then there's the breakdown of each grade level. We have 38 students in kindergarten, seven in first grade, three in second grade, which caps our second grade because, you know, we're already at 18. But one of those students that are leaving the state is a current first-grader. So there's our incoming three second-graders, and then we have four third-graders. So it's looking very promising. And, of course, with all of our continued marketing efforts, we feel confident that we'll reach 100% enrollment.

Lorna: Thank you, Miriam. This is Lorna. Are there any questions by any board members? I will just say that it's very exciting to see the difference in where we are with enrollment this year compared to last year. We're feeling much more confident that we're going to meet our projections and we know that our funding and our budget is based on whether or not we're meeting these projections. So that's important to know because the biggest funding source is each child in a seat. So it's important that we continue to track this work throughout the year.

Jamie: So Jamie Gonzales for the record. Just to see if I'm doing the math correctly, so we have 80 students currently enrolled.

Miriam: Yes.

Jamie: It looks like we're going to lose four of those.

Miriam: Yes.

Jamie: And that will put us at 76. And then of the prospective enrollments, it looks like 52 are registered. So that would bring us up, if they all do commit, to 148.

Miriam: Correct.

Jamie: We're projected to go to 180.

Miriam: Yes.

Jamie: So roughly, we have about 80%, 82%. So somehow, the marketing campaign right now is really targeted at closing that, whatever that is, 32 more students to go.

Miriam: Yes.

Jamie: So that is pretty impressive compared to where we were a year ago. That's very good.

Miriam: And I'll have to say that our numbers were looking good at this time last year. However, we didn't have a building. So by the time we got our building in June, a lot of those families that were initially interested in attending the school, it was just too late, and they had committed elsewhere.

So the difference here is everybody knows where we're located. We've had lots of families come in and tour already. And before they've committed and they've come to tour, and then they've registered. So I feel confident about those 52 because there's the difference. We exist already. They know where the school is. Many of them have already toured.

So I think the fact that they've already registered, submitted all of the documents that they're required is proof, hopefully, that they're committed.

Lorna: Excellent.

Heather: Heather Nay for the record. I don't remember if I did my online enrollment, so that might be one student that you're missing.

Miriam: No, you did.

Heather: Oh, did I?

Miriam: You did.

Heather: Okay.

Miriam: The two that are missing, you're not one of them. I know who they are. We've reached out to them lots of times. You're good, Heather.

Heather: All right.

Lorna: All right. Thank you so much, Miriam, for that report. We appreciate it. And seeing no other hands or others looking to speak, we will move on to item number 13 at this time. This is an overview of a presentation regarding the Strong Start Academy Elementary School made to the Nevada State Senate Committee on Education. Just letting you know that you do have a copy of the presentation as well as the comments made by Heather Nay as a member of the public who spoke on behalf of the school.

Really, the purpose of this presentation was to show work being done in the state that is in support of all students. But on this particular day, it was really dedicated to look at the bilingual composition and model for the school and the fact that it's something different than we're seeing across the district and across the schools.

So hopefully, you had a chance to look over it. If not, then please do take a look at it. And any questions you have, Tammy presented [inaudible 00:52:04] for the city, presented the first four slides. I presented the rest of the presentation on behalf of the board. But also, just because this is work that we have been doing.

The very last slide are recommendations that we made to the Senate Committee on Education regarding education in the State of Nevada, and that is to abandon the single-weighted funding, which was we had the opportunity to really explain what that meant to the senators, that schools are held accountable in multiple areas for student achievement. Therefore, if one child counts in multiple categories, then schools should receive weighting in multiple categories for that same student. Also, to invest in high-quality pre-K education.

We've learned a lot from the Zoom schools that were in our city. Those schools actually outperformed any pre-K students in any other program across the state. And so just putting in line some of those same ideas that we learned about pre-K education. Expanding high-quality dual-language programs and incorporating the recommendations of the English Mastery Council, we felt was important because that has to do specifically with meeting the needs of EL students and students in the lowest 25th percentile, so those two student populations that we most highly serve at Strong Start Academy.

Recommendations were provided to the State Board of Education in November and I pointed those out again here and provided, I think, all of the committee members, or at least most of the committee members, I directly emailed them that presentation so that they had access to it.

So, any questions, comments? This really was an informational update. Thank you so much, everybody. We just wanted you to have the information and to know that this legislative session is going to be very impactful on our school and the work that we are doing.

All right. At this time, we're on item number 14 if I'm correct. This is a discussion for possible act to approve the Strong Start Academy Elementary School academic calendar. You see that calendar in front of you. It's my understanding that this calendar very closely reflects the CCSD calendar. In fact, it's pretty much straight in line with it. Correct, Miriam?

Miriam: Miriam Benitz for the record. A few slight changes. And those changes are that we offer three parent-teacher conferences a year. So that's different. And then the state also does give permission to schools to offer up to five staff development days a year. And CCSD is offering four. And we've opted for the full five. So those are the only differences.

Lorna: Any questions? And if there are no questions, then what we would need to do is approve this academic calendar for next year at this meeting.

Jamie: Jamie Gonzales.

Dr. Moore: Question. Alee Moore for the record. The parent -teacher conference days are non-instructional days, correct?

Miriam: No.

Lorna: Could you expand on that?

Miriam: Or, no, I'm sorry. That's not accurate. Miriam Benitez for the record. One, the very first parent-teacher conference day is a full day off, but the next two are half days. So students go to school for half a day and then the rest of the...they go home by 11:30. And then from 12 into the evening, the teachers are meeting with parents.

Dr. Moore: And so for, okay, the other two there?

Miriam: Those are the other two. The first one is a full day. It is a full day off.

Dr. Moore: Okay.

Miriam: And just so you have background for that, the state allows for up to five half-days. And if we wanted to do full parent-teacher conference days, we'd have to opt for a whole alternative calendar, which entails a lot. So it was just simpler to stick with the traditional. And then we do the half days for the parent-teacher conferences through the rest of the year. And the teachers are okay with that because that very first one is the important one, where they're getting to know the families and the parents, and then they're building those relationships and in constant communication. So it's a lot easier to schedule the parents in half a day, the ones you have to absolutely talk to.

Dr. Moore: How do parents receive the half days? How do they... Meaning, like, is that well-received among parents, like, having a half day?

Miriam: Miriam Benitez for the record. We haven't received, personally, the office or myself, any negative feedback. We have received positive feedback about parents are truly appreciative of being able to have the opportunity to meet with teachers. So the additional parent-teacher conferences, we've received good feedback on that. But I guess we could check with Heather.

Heather: Heather Nay for the record. You know, I have nothing bad to say. Sometimes as a working mom, it is, like, a little challenging, but I think when half days come around, like, it doesn't... I mean, it does matter if they go to school or not. But you can just... Like, we have one coming up in two weeks and I'm probably just going to keep Julian home for the day. I don't think that it would make that much of a difference, but that's just me personally. It's not like it's a huge inconvenience, but that's the only thing I can say for that.

Lorna: This is Lorna. Do you provide safe key on those half days?

Miriam: No.

Lorna: No. I know that that's one thing that we used to be able to do as a principal under the Edison [SP] model, we did four times a year parent conferences and required 100% face-to-face conferences all four times. But one thing we were able to do is to provide a safe key for the full half-day on those conferences so then parents wouldn't have to miss work. But we were able to provide that. So that might be something that we could take a look at. I don't know if it's possible or not through the city safe key. But maybe it would be. I don't know.

Miriam: I don't know if there's capacity because we need the rooms for them to have the meetings and all the room that we have now available for safe key, it's already pretty much at capacity. So I don't know that we have the room to offer that.

Lorna: Until maybe the [crosstalk 00:59:12] is available.

Miriam: Yes, yes.

Heather: Heather Nay for the record. Also, they do give you much notice, so, like, I have time to plan ahead. And then they do offer over-the-phone parent-teacher conferences. So, like, for example, if I don't send Julian to school and he's home, at work, I can do over-the-phone conferences. It's not a huge... It's more convenient to the parents than it is an inconvenience.

Lorna: This is Lorna. And I also think that that's actually a selling point of the school over only one time a year, and I know that was something I would remind parents of. This is a positive here. You get to meet with your child's teacher three times a year. Whereas in the other schools, it's only one time a year that you get to meet with them and have this time set aside. And parents really saw that as a positive as well.

Miriam: And the other thing is we've tried to be strategic about the placement. So it's right after, like, MAP testing. So that we'll have results and teachers are able to go over those MAP testing results and have conversation with parents in case they're confused or want more information on any specific area.

Lorna: Thank you. Alee, that's a good... This is Lorna. That was a good point that you brought up and I'm glad you did so that we could just make sure that was something that's been received positively by the school. Also, I think having that additional professional development day is very important because we heard from the teachers in our report a couple months ago that they have had to learn a lot of new curriculum. And so, having that added time for coaching feedback and professional learning I think has been important to the teachers as well.

All right. If there is no further discussion, we do need a vote to approve this calendar as presented.

Jamie: Jamie Gonzales for the record. I move that we approve the Strong Start Academy Elementary School, the academic calendar for the year 2023, 2024.

Lorna: Is there a second to that motion?

Meli: Meli Palito, [inaudible 01:01:30].

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Nicole: Nicole Thompson, I second that motion.

Lorna: All right. All those in favor?

Woman: Aye.

Woman: Aye.

Lorna: Any opposed? All right, that motion passes. And on that same vein, we have our board meeting schedule for 2023, '24 that does need to be approved. It seems like this Thursday time and day has worked for most people. So we did present a calendar with the same time and date moving through the '23, '24 school year. Is that acceptable to everybody? Does it still work?

Heather: Heather Nay for the record. I know that we had previously a while back, like, moving the board meetings to, like, every other month. It's not that it's an inconvenience but sometimes it is. They come up so fast. I don't know if it's just me.

Lorna: This is Lorna. I think we have two choices. We could move them to every other month or every... You know, the requirement is every quarter. If we do move them to every other month, just know that the meetings will be much longer on each night.

Heather: Okay.

Lorna: So I think it's a give and take. You know, we have to decide do we wanna come more often or stay longer. And I'm not tilting it either way.

Heather: Thank you.

Lorna: You're welcome. One thing I would like to ask is, depending on the business that needs to be taking place, I know a lot of people take vacations in the summer, like June, July. Would we want to maybe forego having a meeting in June or July of, I guess that would be June on this school year's calendar, or July. Or do we see that there's a need to have those meetings? Also, we sent out an email asking about some possible dates. Well, let me not move ahead to that. I think that's probably gonna come under public comment at the board retreat.

So are we okay with this calendar? Do we wanna say except for meeting in July? Or leave the July meeting and then if we don't need it we can cancel it? What are the thoughts of the board as a whole?

Jamie: Jamie Gonzales for the record. I would say leave it on. And in fact, if we were to cancel any, I would imagine June. Since the school year has just ended, July might be useful since it would be the first...or the last meeting before the next school year starts. But again, having that flexibility, I think however you...when you assess whatever the agenda is going to be, I think you could make that call for June and July.

Lorna: Okay. I'm seeing a lot of head... This is Lorna. I see a lot of positive headshakes to that. So if we could have a motion then to approve these meetings as presented, I would appreciate it.

Jamie: Jamie Gonzales for the record. I move that we approve the board meeting schedule for 2023, 2024 as proposed.

Lorna: Thank you. All those in favor?

Woman: Aye.

Jamie: Do we have a second?

Lorna: Oh, sorry. Second.

Meli: Meli Palito, second, for the record.

Lorna: Thank you, Meli. Sorry about that, everybody. I got ahead of myself. All those in favor?

Group: Aye.

Lorna: Any opposed? All right. So the calendar is approved at this time. Thank you so much. And item number 16, this is a report by the City of Las Vegas regarding the status of security review at Strong Start Academy Elementary School and Tony Hsieh Education Center. And I think we have Angela Rose to present that update.

Angela: Yes. Angela Rose for the record. Don't mind my voice. I'm not sure what it is, but thank you for putting up with me. And also, thank you for your patience as we've worked with our public safety department extensively, lengthily, is that a word, ongoing. And we know that it's been a real, like, pain to get this information so late for you guys, post-breakthrough and post things like that. So we appreciate your patience.

I think it was a pretty lengthy presentation this week on internal, external lighting, various things I'll kind of touch on. They did recommend that we didn't present the whole thing in a public meeting just because we don't want to highlight areas of need

specifically with the school. But I do have a very detailed report that I can share with Miriam. And again, working through that. I have a bunch of recommendations to go through as well. So I do want to be as thorough as I can with all respecting the safety of the school.

So they did do an internal and external review multiple times. They mentioned they spoke to you several different times over the past months, multiple months. And looking at natural access, territory reinforcement, surveillance, and then maintenance. They you look at how people can access, like, the natural environment. They look at lighting. They look at surveillance and how people from the outside are watching in versus how we are able to see safely from the inside as well. And then, ongoing maintenance issues where when I was thinking about it, I was thinking, like, facilities maintenance. But it's more about how we maintain the safety and security of the school.

So I'll go through the recommendations again. I'm happy to talk offline with Miriam and go through this in more detail. But they had quite a few recommendations that, again, the city team has to kind of put together a timeline and a cost estimate for some of the items to figure out what can be...makes the most sense. They give us options on some.

So some of it came down to signage. They thought that the main sign on the front corner of the school was helpful. But also, to make just general awareness about this is a school. Kids are here. It, like, begins with community awareness. They start taking care of the area. We aren't by LVA, I know that. But people haven't known this has been a school for a while now. And so they recommended putting a front sign on the front part of the gate as well as the side door to let everybody know this is a school. In case you were not aware, in case you didn't see all the traffic, this is a school and protect it as well.

They talked a lot about the landscaping and how it's our responsibility to take care of that but it's very sparse in some areas. It's overgrown in some areas. And so, they gave a lot of recommendations on what our team [inaudible 01:08:25] our duties as well to do. Right away, we could probably start taking care of that. So making sure there's no bushes that would allow space for somebody to hide and not be visible by somebody driving by, walking through, or somebody coming out of the building. So again, just really taking those visible barriers that we can then see. They mostly just talked about driving around and there still are some really hidden pockets that they want to address. That if somebody might be in one of those areas, they'd have to get

out of their car, walk over, shine a light. You know, so just really looking at those kind of things.

They talked a lot about lighting. So they did a lighting assessment and there are some areas they want us to improve. Some have very visible streetlights, LED, multi-bulb things. Others have, like, no lighting or, like, yellow lighting, which doesn't contribute well to when you're seeing things at night.

They talked a lot about the locks and just, they did a full walkthrough with that and looking at ways to...every lock is currently safe and reinforced. But how we can make it even, like, a double entry. They talked a lot about what's a single-entry point and a double-entry point. So if somebody breaches a single entry point, how we make sure that they haven't crossed the double entry point. So we will be walking through that with you.

Talking a lot about different types of locks, key color versus keys. That was a discussion really early on, which we talked a lot about that back and forth. And based on the recommendations we received, we [inaudible 01:09:57] that we have now but I think we're rethinking that. Because we think that publicly safety is giving us some more language to use that we can then leverage that with our city facilities team. They wouldn't make anything recommended harmful, but you get a security perspective, I think, when you talk with public safety, and they can give us a little bit more information.

They're also very sensitive to the recent increase in violence, particularly at schools. And so, I think that things are just different than they were even, like, a couple years ago. And so, they're really sensitive to that and they wanna make sure that we're addressing that.

And then, the security system. So we have a security system right now. We're looking at how we can enhance to then link directly to city marshals. We already have a firm barrier now. But how do we just increase that second layer? They talked a lot about that.

We talked about door security, about, like, locking mechanisms on all the doors, making sure that those are fully functional, doing random checks and maintenance visits. Because we know that they're only as good as they are until they aren't. And so, just really making it a prior to check those locks.

And then, they looked at all of the exterior doors and ways that we could just, again, enhance the already secured doors. So by adding extra layers of mesh, adding extra layers of material to make it just that much more difficult once they...if they are able to use something to break in. We can't prevent all things from happening but we can do our best to have no single entry points wherever possible and make sure everything is visible to any staff leaving, parents coming and going.

I'll stop there and ask for questions first.

Lorna: Are there any questions by any of the board members? This is Lorna. I don't have any questions based on what you said. I do appreciate the fact too that even just, like, during the day security. I'm gonna send out an email to all of the city staff and just remind them to make sure that as we're coming on campus, that we don't open doors for other people, that we're all checking in with the office so the office knows who's on campus. Because they're responsible at all times for anyone on campus during the school day.

So just those little procedures like that. I know that you sent that out and that's being addressed as well. So I just think that's an important point to bring out that has been addressed as well.

Angela: Yeah. Angela Rose for the record. I think that's a higher point for I think, like, educators. Like, we want the environment to be inviting. We want...like, we lose the garage doors, in theory. We love all of the open windows because that's what makes kids excited about learning. But we know it's not just the same as it was maybe when we were in a classroom.

And so, I think it's been an important conversation that we've been able to have, making sure that we have a safe environment, that it's also welcoming and educating for our students. But safety has to come first.

Lorna: Thank you. Lorna James-Cervantes for the record. Was there any idea of a timeline given as to when we should expect to see some of these assessments being made and some of the work beginning or anything like that, Angela?

Angela: Angela Rose for the record. I think the primary goal is to get the landscaping and, like, the mowing through, right? Like, anything that's immediately able to be tasked. It'll come down to getting the estimate from our internal teams, our security team on some of the locking mechanisms as well as, like, any type of panic badges or buttons or whatever. So that'll be a security internal thing.

We should hopefully be able to get estimates soon. And then once we get the cost estimate, we can then prioritize based on funding, what we can do. Any thoughts on... I haven't processed the whole thing to figure out what's [inaudible 01:14:11] or important to me. But are there any thoughts from the board or even from Miriam from this discussion that would make the most sense or feel like was the highest of high priorities from that I've mentioned?

Miriam: So I prefer to have that not be public.

Angela: Okay.

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, board counsel. If there's an appetite, we can look at holding a closed session for the next meeting. I didn't realize we have an actual report today. I didn't realize you guys had [crosstalk 01:14:44]. So if there's an appetite for that, I think we could arrange for a closed session. I think we can [inaudible 01:14:55] the statutes to include something along these lines. And then, we could speak a little more freely and the board members could have copies of the report and be able to read them ahead of time and process them. Then we could have a more robust discussion if there's an appetite for that.

Amanda: Amanda [inaudible 01:15:14] for the record. In our discussions with the Department of Public Safety, it was their recommendation to not share the full report. We wanna keep it to discussions really with just [inaudible 01:15:26] as much as possible just to ensure the safety of the students.

Lorna: This is Lorna. I understood it as not to publicly share it. My thought was that we could...even if you don't share the whole report, either, like, we never share the whole [crosstalk 01:15:50] procedures with anybody outside of staff but the board, usually we have access to have that. I would be okay with either doing a closed meeting where we share what we can share instead of priorities. Or at minimum, have a briefing where each of the board members have the opportunity to be individually briefed.

But I think a discussion with Miriam and the board, or at least a committee of board members would be important.

Angela: Yeah. Angela Rose for the record. I think that a closed session, that might make better use of time than individual briefings. And yeah, we can share whatever we can share and just go over...at least, yeah, speak more freely about some of the even general safety concerns that we've talked about. I'd be open to that.

Colleen: Colleen McCarty, board counsel. And to the extent that the board is gonna be asked to fund any of these improvements, they have a fiduciary responsibility to be fully informed as to what they're considering.

Angela: Yeah. Angela Rose for the record. I think that the majority of costs will come from the city. But I can't make certain. And I think that will be a discussion, together, we'll have to be working through. And over the coming months, I think that maybe a closed session, like you mentioned, if we could do that, that would just save the individual briefings and having to... What if somebody brings up a really good question? Then we can talk about it more freely in a group.

Lorna: This is Lorna. So you will reach out to us when you have that ready and we can schedule that session at that time?

Angela: Sure, yes.

Lorna: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Angela. We appreciate that. And I do think it's important for all of the board members to be aware, you know, not details of exactly what the plan is, but we need to at least have an overview of the work. All right. Any other questions by any board members?

Heather: Heather Nay for the record. It stinks to have to go through something like this having my child in school. And I just wanna thank you guys for keeping him safe. It's sad. We talked about it the other day in a meeting rather briefly. We have to teach our preschool kids, like, there might be an active shooter one day, we have to hide, is the reality. And so, I just wanna thank you guys for taking that...because it's a huge concern of mine. And me and my husband have talked about eventually homeschool because it's so scary to send your kid to school every day. So thank you, guys.

Lorna: This is Lorna. Thank you, Heather. We all understand the importance of the safety and our own children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews being in school. But knowing that they need the education and the social interaction of other children. And shutting ourselves out from the world is not going to...it would help as much as it could. But that's an instinct of the parent to always protect their children. So thank you for that.

And thank you, everybody, for the work. Angela, we'll look forward to knowing when that work is ready so that we could schedule it. And at this time, that brings us to

public comment, number 17, on our agenda. And anyone who wishes to speak in public comment at this time is welcome to come forward.

This is Lorna James-Cervantes. I will just point out that we were hoping to schedule a board retreat with all of the board members, sent out some possible dates, and not one of those dates worked for all of us, of course, because of the busy schedules [inaudible 01:19:41] we may consider moving to the summer.

I would like us to think about, would it be better... Because the purpose of the board retreat really is to set up priorities and to really work on thinking about, is it time for us to start forming some committees [inaudible 01:19:58] security committee, where [inaudible 01:20:01] on bringing relations back to the board as a whole on what should our priorities be with regard to safety, just an example. Or a finance committee that goes over reports and helps Miriam with the budgeting. Maybe that would include our treasurer. It would help with the tentative budgeting. And then bring a report that we could very quickly approve, because that committee has done the heavy part of the work.

So that's the kind of thing that we would do in a board retreat just to have some of those discussions. We were looking at making it a full day. Would it be best for us to maybe hold that as we come back to the new year when people are not feeling maybe, like, we're just trying to get through the end of this year and we wanna go to... Maybe we can set it in the first part of August maybe to replace our usual August meeting, but we have a full-day retreat in place of that August meeting. Just a thought.

And my question, Alee, I know you have children. Heather, you have children. Is it better to hold that on a weekend, like, a Saturday, or doing the week? Because we know many of you have jobs outside of...you know, this is a voluntary piece. So is it better to do it during the week or on the weekend? So we just appreciate any feedback as we're trying to figure this out.

Heather: Heather Nay for the record. My time I think will be different than hers. Me, personally, weekdays. Weekends are so hectic with baseball and trying to do grocery shopping and planning for the week. So...

Lorna: Okay. Any other [crosstalk 01:21:49]?

Woman: For me, when we were talking about the summertime, right, we were talking about the summer, so it's all the same.

Lorna: And if we did hold off till August, would it make any difference to you?

Woman: If we held off to August when school is in session, then I would say weekdays would be better.

Lorna: Okay. We weren't sure if, with work schedules, that would make it harder for people. Okay.

Woman: Oh, I can make that work.

Lorna: Okay. Anyone else? Nicole? Alee?

Woman: You know what? For me, I pretty much am off for the summer. But I'm supposed to work summer school. So I will be working up until the end of June. I'm trying to do some vacation in July but not the full month. So July is a better time for me if we wanna meet during the weekdays. Other than that, you know, my weekdays would be more optimal. So we're kind of all over the place. But I'm willing to reach a compromise as to when we can come together. A retreat is necessary.

Lorna: This is Lorna. Thank you for that. And I agree that a retreat is necessary. We all, you know, I don't know if you'd call it a leadership group or whatever, but Miriam, myself, Colleen, and Angela, and Amanda had met last week and we were talking about this. We feel it's necessary. What we might do is try to come up with a few more days that we could send out to you within the next few weeks, but definitely before our next meeting. And see if others can do those days, maybe through a SurveyMonkey or something. And in the end, what our goal is, is to have 100% participation of the board because it's so important. But we'll just work within the group as a whole. Alee?

Dr. Moore: I was gonna say, like, I have preferences but I can make anything work. As long as I'm not out of town, I can make anything work. So I'm flexible.

Lorna: Thank you for that. And I see a lot of headshaking in the room. All right. Well, thank you so much for that, everybody. I don't see any other public comment or anyone else wishing to make public comment at this time. So I appreciate your participation tonight and we will adjourn at this time. Thank you, everybody. Have a good evening.

Woman: Bye.

Woman: Bye.

Woman: Bye.

Lorna: And I apologize to everybody for my phone. I don't know...