Minutes, Kūlia Academy Board
Meeting January 09, 2024
4:00 pm Hawai‘i Standard Time, via Zoom

Present: Board members: Karen Awana, Robert Bley-Vroman (chair), Graham V. Crookes (secty.), Interim Executive Director Andy Gocke (ex officio). Murat Arabaci.

Absent: Safa Berat Aktepe; Kūlia Education Foundation officer: Robert Littman.

Absent board members: Ben Cabreros, Adnan Doyuran (sick)

Meeting called to order, 4:06pm, Hawai‘i Standard Time.

1. Chair agenda overview
Chair Bley-Vroman told the meeting that the sublease which we had approved at the last meeting has been approved by the Attorney-General, and signed by Foundation officer Dr. Littman, so it has been executed. Board members will meet with the representative of the Church in person tomorrow, to get to know each other.

Chair reminded us that minutes of the last meeting were prepared and approved at the end of the last meeting.

The next item of the agenda is the preopening assurances.

2. First policy to be reviewed today: the Safety Plan (Gokce)
The only remaing part of the Safety Plan which had been a concern to board members was the second (2.6) on uniforms. This item has now been removed

Approval of the plan was moved by Murat Arabaci, seconded by Crookes; approved unanimously.

3. Second policy; the Crime Reporting policy (draft)
If there is a crime happening at the school, how must or should be reported? This must be stated in the policies. Previous discussion had focused on the reporting concerning use of tobacco products, including vaping. Andy has checked HIDoE policies; while HIDoE wishes to minimize or indeed prevent the use of tobacco (etc) but they do not include this matter in regard to crime reporting. So the current draft of *our* policies does *not* include this matter and Andy‘s recommendation is that we should not include it in our policy statements, even though the matter is important. This can be handled without including it in crime reporting, but should go in other policies. This was the only matter outstanding. Since this has now been settled, the Board went on to approve this policy.

Approval of the plan was moved by Murat Arabaci, seconded by Crookes; approved unanimously.

4. Resignation of Board Member
A position for community outreach was developed and posted online. Ben Cabreros was the best applicant for the position and has agreed to be employed as a Community Outreach specialist for the school. Accordingly he should not simultaneously be a member of the Board, as there would be a perception of conflict of interest (Even though he would be an employee of the Foundation paid for by the grant the Foundation has received from the US Federal Government for our preopening activities. He is not paid or employed by the School; but we wish to avoid an overlap between board membership and foundation-paid employee.)

Murat provided some personal details of Mr. Cabreros‘s previous education and employment trajectory.

Ben Cabreros accordingly has resigned from the Board; the Board accepts his resignation with gratitude for his service.

5. Other business
Chair Bley-Vroman asked board members to consider our need for an additional board member following this resignation. Probably someone with community connections or position would be desirable (as it was in the case of the previous board member). Board governance experience would also be relevant.

Other future agenda items were raised briefly. There will be a need for the Board to consider a job description for a future Executive Director. In future meetings, the board may need to focus more on educational policy for the School, as it moves beyond technical, legal, real estate, and preopening assurances.

Meeting was adjourned 4:42 pm

A tentative time for the next Kūlia board meeting the first Tuesday of February, that is Feb 06 2024 4:30 pm by zoom to be confirmed by email.
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