

**Relay Lab Schools Texas Board of Directors**  
**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 8, 2021, 1:00 - 3:00 PM via Zoom**

**Attendance:**

- **Board Members Present:** Joel Harris, Lionel Sosa, Maria Faqier (new Board member)
- **Board Members Absent:** N/A
- **Attendees:** Celestina De La Garza (Cele), Ixchell Gonzalez, Julia Manoli

**NOTES:**

- I. Call to Order
  - A. Joel Harris called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.
  
- II. Public Comment
  - A. None
  
- III. Appointment of New Director
  - A. Motion by Joel Harris to appoint Maria Faqier to the Board of Directors
  - B. Seconded by Lionel Sosa
  - C. All voted in favor. Motion passed.
  
- IV. Appointment of New Officer
  - A. Motion by Joel Harris to appoint Maria Faqier as Secretary of the Board of Directors
  - B. Seconded by Lionel Sosa
  - C. All voted in favor. Motion passed.
  
- V. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2020
  - A. Motion by Joel Harris
  - B. Seconded by Lionel Sosa
  - C. All voted in favor. Motion passed.
  
- VI. Discussion of Relay Lab Schools updates
  - A. Ixchell Gonzalez shared updates on staff culture, student engagement, and attendance.
  - B. Ixchell Gonzalez reviewed academic data, including MAP and STAAR projections.
    1. Middle-of-Year (MOY) MAP took place in the month of January. There was a decline in growth from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021. Relay Lab Schools is addressing by bringing in more students for in-person instruction, addressing low student attendance, and supporting teachers in teaching remote and in-person students at the same time.
    2. SAISD has not provided STAAR projections based on MOY MAP, however Relay Lab Schools has developed its own projections.
    3. Accountability is paused for the 2020-2021 school year. Relay Lab Schools plans to have elementary school campuses next year which will help with the focus on getting out of Improvement Required (IR) status next year.

- C. Cele De La Garza and Ixchell Gonzalez shared updates about SAISD partnership, including discussions about curriculum purchasing and other funding.

VII. Review FY 2021 Financial Report

- A. Julia Manoli shared an update on the FY21 budget report and the draft of the FY22 budget. There is currently a financial gap with revenue and expenses in the FY22 budget.
- B. There was discussion about next steps around funding.

VIII. Organization Planning

- A. Joel Harris and the Board introduced a discussion regarding decisions for plans for the organization next year, and solicited feedback from the Relay Lab Schools team members present (Cele, Ixchell, and Julia).
- B. The open session of the Board meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

IX. Executive Session

- A. The Board of Directors began an Executive Session at 2:45 PM pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.074: deliberation regarding employment, duties of Executive Director, appointment, duties or public officers, employees.

- X. The Board Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.