

# Youth On Their Own BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 25, 2024  
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

**Board Members in Attendance:** Anahi Ortiz, Tom Hoyt, Ragan Edwards, Amanda Kippert, Linda Montes-Cota, Mark Papoccia, Paola Ponce, Cori Rodriguez, Tony Spear, Sean Murray, Allen Kinnison, Katie Maxwell

**Board Members Absent:** Elaine Babcock, Eric Dupree, Antonio Rubio

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Brooke Blizzard, Todd Brown, Elizabeth Slater, Daniel Armenta, Heather Vene

## 1. Call to Order

Katie Maxwell

Katie called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

## 2. Mission Moment

Chuck

Chuck is a YOTO alumnus and member of the Youth Action Board (YAB). Being a part of the YAB has taught Chuck communication skills. A father of two, financial assistance and rent assistance provided by YOTO helped Chuck achieve stability. Chuck shared a quote that always resonates with him: "To find out you're a true diamond, you have to experience a lot of pressure." Chuck was recently promoted to a supervisory position at work.

## 3. Acknowledgements

Katie Maxwell

This is Tom Hoyt's last board meeting as his term is ending. With over a decade of board service and two stints as Acting Executive Director, Tom's friendly and supportive presence will surely be missed.

## 4. Review and Approve Minutes for 1/27/2024

Linda Montes-Cota

Motion to approve 1/27/2024 Minutes: Mark Papoccia

Second: Allen Kinnison

Discussion: None

**Vote: Approved unanimously**

## 5. Review and Approval Finance Report for March 2024

Mark Papoccia

Mark presented the finance report on behalf of Paola Ponce. Both expenses and income are over the budgeted amount. Income is higher than expected due to unrealized gains in the stock market and successful fundraising efforts, including over \$250k from the tile wall campaign. Foundation giving is down from what is expected. Expenses are up, which can be seen as a good thing as it means we're serving many youth who are all attending school. We also had some unanticipated interest on our line of credit for the building renovation.

The board discussed YOTO's cash reserve policy, and Mark explained why YOTO used its cash on hand to pay down the line of credit as soon as possible and reduce the amount of interest accrued. The result

has been several months where YOTO is below the policy requirement of two months cash on hand, but YOTO has both unrestricted investments and the line of credit available to manage cash flow needs.

Motion to approve Finance Report for March 2024: Katie Maxwell

Second: Ragan Edwards

Discussion: None

**Vote: Approved unanimously**

## **6. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Review**

**Katie Maxwell**

The Board reviewed all conflicts of interests reported by board members for 2024.

## **7. Governance Committee Report**

**Katie Maxwell**

The Governance Committee shared several updates:

- There will be three openings for new board members to fill this July. There was a push earlier this year to recruit educators for the board. Eight educators are interested, two will be interviewed and then presented to the Board next meeting for approval. There are several other board applicants being considered as well.
- Elizabeth will be sending out a link to the FY25 Placement Survey tomorrow. It is due May 10.
- The Governance Committee has launched a board learning video series. A list of available videos was provided to board members, and all videos are linked in Basecamp. Board members are encouraged to watch all the videos, but particularly the ones marked required with a red asterisk.

## **8. CEO Report**

**Elizabeth Slater**

Elizabeth thanked the Governance Committee for their support recently and thanked all the board for attending all the recent events.

Elizabeth discussed key data highlights from the YOTO dashboard and their impacts on the budget, including:

- 1,625 youth served (1,500 target)
- 71% platinum stipend achievement (goal 70%)

Advocacy updates:

- We joined a coalition, Arizona Unpinked, to advocate for a bill eliminating state tax on period products.
- We met with Homeless Youth Connection regarding a minor consent bill for housing services. Their bill has been further revised and the current version of the bill focuses on facilitation of a Host Home program.
- We met with Earn to Learn to learn how YOTO can support efforts to pass the Earn To Learn Act. Their staff will visit YOTO next month for a tour and to discuss strategic advocacy efforts.

Elizabeth provided a brief preview of the budget for FY25. It is a budget of \$5 million, with no significant increases in expenses. YOTO plans to concentrate youth support on the academic stipend and take a Year Zero distribution from the expected endowment donation. We will also implement already strategies to manage any over-enrollment/over-participation. Tune into Zoom for a Lunch and Learn on the budget on May 17 at noon.

9. Regular meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Katie Maxwell

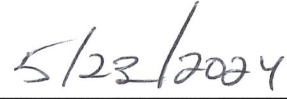
10. CEO review (closed session)

Katie Maxwell

*Submitted by Brooke Blizzard on behalf of Linda Montes-Cota, Secretary.*

I certify these minutes were approved by the Board of Directors at the May 23, 2024 board meeting.

  
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Linda Montes-Cota, Secretary

  
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Date