

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brenda Marrero, Esq. Chair
Nelson Flores, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Joseph DuCette, Ph.D., Member
Donna Nuccio, Member
Sarah Finkelstein, Member
Caroline Gorman, Esq. Member

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Dana B. Espinosa, Secretary
Jessika Garcia

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Location: Zoom.Us – Meeting ID: 834 1514 0696

Monday, Sep 20, 2021

Board Members Present: Brenda Marrero, Esq. Dr. Joseph DuCette, Caroline Gorman, Donna Nuccio, Dr. Nelson Flores, Dana Espinosa, Sarah Finkelstein; Jessica Garcia

Quorum Established: Yes

Others Present: Dr. Darcy Russotto, CEO; Robin Eglin, Omninvest; Dr. Joshua Fineberg, Director of Student Services; Mercedes Walton-Mason, Assistant Principal; Yolanda Cooper, Principal

Call to Order

- 4:38PM

Public Testimony

- No Public Testimony

Board of Governance

- Motion to approve the minutes from last meeting by Brenda, seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.
- Evaleena discussed options and plans to get board members more involved in student life and ways to connect with families through social media and attending more school functions and events.
- Evaleena Also spoke on the garden and funding options along with grants and community and student engagement in the garden.

Finance Report

- *Review of the August Financials provided by Robin Eglin: Net Income for July and August is above \$106,000. Operating Expenses are below \$98,000.*
- *Audit will be October 4th-11th. The draft Audit will be in November and the final is due in December on 12/31.*
- *Darcy spoke on leveraging funds to build the upcoming high school. The charter application has to be approved before cost depreciates. If the application is denied it will take 2 years and the cost paid for the high school should be written off.*
- *Darcy is looking to start hiring and contracting for the high school in January of 2022 and should hire someone to take care of that sole responsibility.*

School Report

- Yolonda reported on school numbers. Since June 18th there has been 52 student withdrawals. Current Enrollment is 740 students, 442 students in 3rd-8th grade. Focusing on Kindergarten through 2nd grade with 298 students.
- Currently enrollment is down due to the recent closure and parents enrolling them into cyber school, currently Yolonda is pulling from the waitlist students to fill vacancies.
- School Closure last week was due to students and staff testing positive for Covid. The six individuals were all spread out which caused the whole school to go virtual.
- When students return to school, we are beginning pooled testing and we have collected waivers from all parents.

- Dana asked that the wellness check information that is checked by staff every morning before school be made available. Letting parents know that we have everything and check numbers and are contacting parents when the information is not submitted.
- Darcy Spoke on vaccine mandates, talking about the possibility of mandating the vaccination for all staff with an exemption for religious and medical reasons. We want to mirror the guidelines that the school district has put in place.
- If staff refuse to be vaccinated they will have to be tested twice a week and if they refuse disciplinary action will be taken the same as performance based disciplinary actions.
- The proposal should be changed and voted on 10/18 and should be enacted by November 1st.
- Jeff spoke on the exemptions stating that the employer has to make reasonable accommodations before dismissal or termination.

Action Items

- Darcy spoke on hiring of a new School Psychologist, the previous psychologist is going through family issues and we need to have the position filled.
- *Brenda Motion to Approve. Was not objected by anyone*
- Folder labeled rental documents was not on the agenda and could not be discussed.
- Darcy then reported on the recent lockdown of the school and there was danger in the neighborhood nearby and we had little information so we went on lockdown.

Entered into EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:21 PM for compensation review and personnel matters. Returned to REGULAR SESSION at 6:33 PM.

- MOTION to APPROVE *Personnel Salaries* by Marrero, seconded by Gorman. Motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm.

Minutes Recorded by: Darius Wallace