



MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 25, 2020

The meeting was held virtually via Google Meets.

PRESENT

Lourdes Putz, Chair
Samuel Rivera, Trustee
Manuel Morales, Trustee
John Witherspoon, Trustee

GUESTS

Jahi Bashir, Head of School I.A.
Ellen Eagen, Attorney
Over 50 Teachers & Support Staff

Val Jacobson, Head of Ops
Mary Kenny, Minutes Transcriber
Kathleen Gaffney, Potential Trustee

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm. Ms. Putz welcomed everyone.

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Mr. Morales made a motion to approve the draft of July Board Minutes pending approval of school counsel. Mr. Witherspoon seconded. All were in favor.

3. ACADEMICS

Mr. Bashir updated the Board on school reopening. Three parent and family meetings were held for reopening feedback. Over 400 families attended. SEALs, SLAs, Parent Coordinator, PLC Leadership, Acting Interim Head of School, Head of Operations, IT Manager, and other staff were present at meetings. There will be a PLC Townhall on August 27 at 6:00pm about school reopening. Two reopening meetings for teachers and staff were held during August professional development.

The master schedule is almost complete and students who are off-track to graduate have been identified. Ms. Manion presented a video that was created for parents regarding school reopening safety.

Mr. Rivera announced that Mr. Bashir will be serving as Interim Acting Head of School. He thanked Mr. Bashir on the Board's behalf for taking this role during such a difficult time.

Mr. Bashir reviewed the 2020-21 Bell Schedule. Grade Team Meetings have been added on Fridays. Students will not change rooms, but teachers will. Mr. Bashir explained that there will be two groups of students in school. Group A will be in the building on Mondays and Tuesdays and Group B will be in the building on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students with special needs will attend school on Wednesdays. All electives will be remote.

Mr. Bashir requested that the Board approve the 2020-21 Bell Schedule.

- Mr. Rivera made a motion to approve the 2020-21 Bell Schedule pending any changes due to the COVID

environment. Mr. Witherspoon seconded. All were in favor.

4. FINANCE

Ms. Fernandez reported that as of June, 2020, the total collected revenue is \$16,731,474. Total expenses are \$16,320,170. Excess totals \$411,303. Rent is \$9,917,299. We have not yet received per pupil funding. The Board discussed E-Rate monies and Ms. Eagen asked Ms. Fernandez to monitor them closely.

Ms. Fernandez presented the budget. Ms. Eagen reminded the Board of the potentially 20% reduction in the NYS education budget. The current WCHS budget reduction is 8%. Ms. Putz requested that administration work to reduce the budget closer to 15%.

- Mr. Morales made a motion to approve the budget with the understanding that it may need to be modified pending NYS budget cuts. Mr. Witherspoon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

5. ACCOUNTABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Manion requested formal approval of the completed Reopening Plan.

- Mr. Rivera made a motion to approve the Reopening Plan acknowledging that it will be iterated as needed in the COVID environment. Mr. Witherspoon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ms. Manion stated that she submitted the school's Annual Report on August 1. CSBM submitted the ESSER funding application prior to August 15 and is finalizing the school's Title I application which will be submitted prior to August 31. She added that the Title I Consultation and Collaboration meeting was held earlier in the evening. The meeting was attended by Ms. Rivera-Putz and Ms. Eagen as well as leadership, parents, staff members, and community partners.

Mr. Rivera addressed recent staff furloughs, including the Manager of Student Support Services and Scheduling, a College and Career Coordinator, the Alternative Education Manager, an Intervention and Family Support Counselor, a Student Life Associate, an Operations Associate, the Library Media Specialist and a Safety Officer.

He stated that due to the lack of schoolwide in-person learning some staff were placed on furlough for the time being and should be eligible for unemployment insurance. Mr. Rivera stated that the Board took this measure to remain fiscally responsible in an uncertain climate, but that it was not done lightly.

Additional discussion occurred. Ms. Rivera-Putz, Ms. Eagen, and Mr. Bashir addressed questions and concerns in the chat.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rivera moved to adjourn. Mr. Witherspoon seconded. All were in favor.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION