

PPPCS, Inc. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2020

Meeting held by Zoom

Members Attending: Sarah Sandoval-Mohapatra (presiding), Jenna Adams (TAL), Ankit Aggarwal, Astrid Bharath-Pierce (PAL), Candace Caraco (recording), Chuck Conner (by phone for portion), Aaron Fries, Kim Francois, Pat Irish, Natasha Perry (TAL), Paul Rishar, Chris Scott, Julie Neale Taylor (PAL), Lazette Wells, John Wesby; *ex officio*: Jane Lindenfelser

Absent: Tasha Johnson, Charletta McLean

Staff Guests: Chad Kramer, principal of Patterson Park Public Charter School (PPPCS); Emily Augustine, principal of Clay Hill Public Charter School (CHPCS); Bess Aquila, Lauren Jeremy, Risa Joab, Heather Savino, Alexis Suskin-Sperry

**Unless otherwise noted, an asterisk indicates there is a presentation or document archived online in the Google Drive linked to the meeting agenda. These are effectively part of the minutes.*

I. Opening Items

- A. Sarah Sandoval-Mohapatra, board president, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
- B. Record Attendance and Guests (see above) – the roll was taken and noted
- C. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
- D. Consent Agenda*: included September Board and Exec. Cte minutes, and the Facilities Committee Report; it was approved by the board.

II. Teachers-at-Large Report*

Natasha Perry provided a report from PPPCS elementary grades, and Jenna Adams provided a PPPCS middle school report. Attendance is 93.4% year to date and 94% in October. There have been 178 “bluebirds” awarded with administrative follow-up. There was a family town hall last night with support from all three parent groups.

Jenna Adams described discussions about how feedback will be shared back and forth from teachers and administration about successes and challenges, including with the anti-racist work. Among other things, there is a Google form-based survey at the end of staff meetings and the PPPCS Hub where information can be shared.

III. Parents-at-Large Report*

Astrid Bharath-Pierce and Julie Neale Taylor provided the HOPPP report. HOPPP officers have been elected: Dana Martin-Scott is president; Julie Wilson is vice president; Valerie Duffy is secretary; and Nadya Dutchin is treasurer. Asst. secretary position is open. HOPPP is giving a fall gift to teachers using funds leftover from the spring Teacher Appreciation Week. This is likely to be a smaller fundraising year for HOPPP. HOPPP is coordinating with Dr. Kramer to have joint meetings to try to minimize the number

of meetings parents need to attend. They are also reaching out to Hekima Table and Mis Raices to coordinate and have comprehensive meetings.

IV. School and Growth Update*

Jane provided an overview of the action plan for responding to the Listening Circle demands. Administration did an analysis that includes costs (soft costs, too) and impacts. A process is setup so staff can also participate in the analysis as part of laying the groundwork for planning, which is proceeding this fall.

PPPCS enrollment is 742, 2 students under the cap. The budget was set at 729. There was historically low attrition this year with no new students in 1st through 8th grades as a consequence—and 8 Kindergarten seats were left open. The enrollment adjustment is pending.

Dr. Kramer provided the PPPCS Principal's Report.* He presented the annual objectives for the year under the general goal headings of Academic Excellence, Equity, and Bright Future. The social-emotional learning goal is still being finalized under Academic Excellence.

He also mentioned the upcoming PPPCS-National Federation of the Blind upcoming session to support families of students with visual impairments (across the City). There is also an upcoming Tech Support session. There have been 225 parent conferences and town halls.

Ms. Emily Augustine provided the CHPCS Principal's Report.* She noted enrollment launched on October 15 for both schools. So far there are 26 CHPCS applications with 14 repeats from last year. Social media recruitment has begun, there will be Facebook live session(s) with Emily, and Nov 18 will be a joint virtual Kindergarten day.

Jane then provide an update on the CHPCS facility. The design drawings are ready.

V. Finance Committee*

Jane and committee chair Paul Rishar led the board through a detailed discussion of the current budget year and potential challenges over the next couple of years. The discussion is in part prelude to a likely November vote on a facility lease for CHPCS.

This year's budget was set before it was clear what the academic year would hold. CARES grants have helped with COVID-related expenses. The PPPCS Budget Cte has met to review both upturn and downturn scenarios since there is a chance of a per pupil funding change when the enrollment adjustment period ends.

With respect to Clay Hill, the board will need to commit to a lease and the facility without having certainty over the FY22 per pupil funding, which would be cut from prior years because of revenue impacts from COVID. The Finance Committee has been modeling what kind of downward funding pressure we as the operator can sustain and created a sensitivity report with cuts of 5%, 10%, and 15%. Break points were identified. It was noted a per pupil funding cut of great magnitude would be a disaster across all schools. The board noted its principles of replication included doing no harm to PPPCS. Both PPPCS and CHPCS figured out how to weather a 5% cut. CHPCS has had a good fundraising track record, which helps. But cuts after 5% become increasingly challenging at both schools.

There was some discussion of advocacy work in Annapolis that might be done. We are also asking City schools if CHPCS can include third grade in the first year of operations.

VI. Development*

Heather Savino presented the Development report. She asked members to fill out their annual development menu and encouraged members to give a donation by the end of December as some foundations ask about board participation in giving by calendar year. She also provided an overview of grants received; the team is putting in effort to ensure full wraparound services for students.

IX. Closing Items

- A. **Upcoming Key Dates:** Nov. 18 Board Meeting; Zoom meeting number and password on agenda.
- B. The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm, and the board went into executive session for the executive director's annual performance review.