

# PPPCS, Inc. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 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, Aaron Fries, Kim Francois, Pat Irish, Tasha Johnson, Paul Rishar, Chris Scott, Julie Neale Taylor (PAL), Lazette Wells, John Wesby; *ex officio*: Jane Lindenfelser

**Absent:** Charletta McLean, Natasha Perry

**Staff Guests:** Chad Kramer, principal of Patterson Park Public Charter School (PPPCS); Emily Augustine, principal of Clay Hill Public Charter School (CHPCS); Lauren Jeremy, Risa Joab, 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 7:02 pm.
- B. Record Attendance and Guests (see above) – the roll was taken and noted
- C. Public Comment – There was no public comment. The board president reminded everyone that public comment time is always available at the beginning of the meeting. This is the time when guests may offer comments or ask questions. The remainder of the discussion is limited to board members; however, people are always free to email comments or questions to the board president ([sarah.sandoval.mohapatra@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.sandoval.mohapatra@gmail.com)) or to the executive director ([jlindenfelser@pppcs.org](mailto:jlindenfelser@pppcs.org)).
- D. Consent Agenda\*: included October Board and Exec. Cte minutes, the Development Committee report, and the first quarter financials; it was approved by the board through roll-call vote.

### II. Connection

The board president noted that while Zoom has enabled the board and guests to continue to meet safely, the time for socializing before and after the formal meeting has been lost, and that was time important to getting to know one another better. At this meeting and in future meetings, time will be set aside at the beginning of the meeting for breakout rooms and casual conversation. Today there were two starter questions (what are you looking forward to, and if you could go anywhere right now, where would it be).

The board president also reminded everyone that December 1 is Giving Tuesday.

### III. Teachers-at-Large Report\*

Jenna Adams provided the TAL report. The school community frames feedback as Glow or/and Grow. There was a Glow for work with team chairs on anti-racist work and a Grow for follow-up on the curriculum being used thus far this fall after the summer curriculum audit. Jenna described some of the

learning activities: a writing workshop for Kindergarten, a first-grade publishing party, and art reflecting gratitude organized by the Arts Integration Committee.

#### **IV. Parents-at-Large Report\***

Astrid Bharath-Pierce and Julie Neale Taylor provided the report from HOPPP, which had sent a \$25 thank-you Amazon gift card to every teacher and staff member at PPPCS. Other than that, the three parent groups had not been active since the last board meeting.

#### **V. School and Growth Update\***

Jane began with a series of thank-you call-outs to board members, as the admin team uses in staff meetings.

She reminded the board of the three strategic goals: Academic Excellence, Equity, Bright Future. She reported that the Health and Safety Committee of the school has met weekly since August and is not transitioning to biweekly meetings after PPPCS passed the BCPSS site visit related to COVID preparation. Bipolar ionization units are being installed in every room, and teacher shields, hand sanitizer, directional floor decals, and signs have been purchased to prepare first for small groups and then general reopening.

Jane then reported on the Action Plan related to the Listening Circle staff demands. The Bluebird Bulletin offered staff an introduction and guiding principles related to the plan. The Hub has information all can see, but since the plan is content dense, highlights will be pulled out for the Bulletin.

Dr. Kramer provided the PPPCS Principal's Report.\* In October, students completed STAR reading (grades 3-8) and math (grades 1-8) and Dibels Reading (K-2<sup>nd</sup>) testing. The scores are typical for beginning of the year at PPPCS, which means some summer learning loss is evident, but it was not worse on balance than usual. The reading data were more variable than the math data, and the Academic Excellence Committee will be looking at the data more closely. The Dibels testing showed 43% below grade level, and STAR data showed 55% below grade level in reading and 55% in math. The other data to go into the dashboard will be attendance, and this month the rate was 94.87% and 93.77% year to date. The board discussed the data. Would families see these grade-level deficiencies in the grades students just received? The analysis is not yet done. Is the curriculum rigorous enough? How are we connecting testing results back to student-teacher inputs and outputs? What are the key school improvement steps we should be taking?

Ms. Emily Augustine provided the CHPCS Principal's Report.\* Thus far, after a month there are 32 applications for the new school. City schools agreed to raise the enrollment cap by 15 at CHPCS and to allow the school to start as a K-3, rather than a K-2. An intensified recruitment plan is tied to the announcement about the school facility, which is pending.

#### **VI. Facilities Committee\***

Lazette Wells, chair, provided the report. She noted that there are a number of necessary expenditures related to entering the school that are not reflected in the \$1.091M estimate from CAM Builders, including the alarm system and other technology costs. At least some will be covered by the MSDE grant won last year or by e-rate. Capital costs are not covered by MSDE but certain elements related to bringing the building to ADA code are.

Lazette provided the committee's goals, which will pertain to supporting both schools.

One of the things the committee will do is prepare a capital budget for the Finance Committee to review and work into the overall budget presentation.

#### **VII. Finance Committee\***

Paul Rishar, committee chair, recapped the history of the lease negotiations related to the Pratt Street facility that used to be the Our Lady of Fatima school. Alan Sun, member of the Investment Committee, PPPCS founder, and attorney for PPPCS Inc. has been on all of the lease calls. (Jane, Alan, and Bob Manekin, as well as Paul, have been representing the operator in negotiations.) The consensus is that this is an unusual lease: typically a tenant would not make repairs with a lease of just two years; either the owner renovates or there are larger rent credits. But since the spring, terms related to a long-term lease have become more favorable, mitigating the risk of repair costs going in. After two years, the parties mutually decide if they want to go forward with another lease. After that, the renewals occur in 5-year blocks and are up to the tenant; terms will not need to be renegotiated. Remaining risks have to do with enrollment and if per pupil funding will decline. This year, it went up rather than declined, as had been feared. Also, City Schools approved CHPCS on a short-term basis, and the school's charter will have to be approved again when we expand on the property.

The board went into breakout rooms to discuss the lease and identify any other questions. One question that emerged was whether PPPCS Inc. could have the right of first refusal if the Parish/Archdiocese decided to sell the property that PPPCS Inc. is set to lease. That will be discussed as the final steps of securing the lease are pursued. It was noted that PPPCS Inc. had already raised over \$470,000 towards the \$1.091M construction costs and still has three grants pending.

There was a motion to approve the letter of intent and the terms of the lease and to move forward to open CHPCS in the facility in AY 21-22. The board voted unanimously in support of the motion.

The committee goals will be voted on in January.

#### **VIII. Academic Excellence Committee\***

This item was deferred to the January meeting, and the committee goals will be voted on then.

#### **IX. Closing Items**

- A. **Upcoming Key Dates:** There is no December board meeting. The next meeting is January 20, 2021.
- B. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.