

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

At
444 W Lake St – Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60606

Thursday, December 12, 2019
4:00p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON

Trustees

Ellen Kollar
Matt Bergmann
Peg Cain
Howard Isenberg
John Stevenson
John Stoops
Arlen Wiley
Jason Zenner

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Tim Dugan
Rona Fourte
Kelley Kalinich
Bernard Lilly
Walter Matthews
Latasha Thomas

TELECONFERENCE

Caroline Degenars
Leslie Holling
James Reilly
Cynthia Helle, PECS Foundation Chair

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Staff

Angela Johnson-Williams, Principal, PECS
Shinwe Shelton, Deputy Director of Operations, PECS
Tahanni Ragland, Business Manager, PECS
Jessica Lewis, PECS Promise, PECS
Dr. Antoine Jones, Recruiter, PECS

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Mrs. Kollar.

II. Opening Comments and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

On motion duly made (Mr. Stevenson), seconded (Mr. Stoops), and unanimously passed, the minutes of October 19, 2019 are approved.

III. ACADEMICS

Mrs. Johnson-Williams reviewed with the Board the Academic Report. She reviewed in detail the PECS SQRP report for 2019-2020, sharing the good news that PECS increased from a Level 2 for SY 2018-19, to a Level 2+ school rating for SY 2019-20. Reading and Math growth improved dramatically: from the 21st to the 82nd percentile for Reading and from the 18th to the 77th percentile for Math. The Board was directed to the materials in the Board Packet for a copy of the SQRP Report.

Following the SQRP discussion, on motion duly made (Mr. Bergmann), seconded (Mrs. Cain), and unanimously passed, the Board adopted a resolution to formally congratulate Mrs. Johnson-Williams and the entire PECS team on the impressive success of rising from a Level 2 to a 2+.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams then reviewed the PECS Academic Scoreboard from August to November. K-5th grade has been meeting the math metric for the last 3 months and is also sporadically meeting the ELA metric. She further noted that middle school is a watch-out right now, in red regarding both Math and ELA.

Parent-Teacher Conferences for Q1 and Q2 went relatively well as far as parent participation. A discussion ensued regarding how PECS measures parent participation on its Academic Scorecard. It is currently measured on parent at Parent-Teacher Conferences, concerts and 8th grade parent meetings), but thought will be given to a more robust measure since teachers and parents are engaging frequently regarding students via a variety of formats and platforms.

Regarding the culture metric and discipline, Mrs. Johnson-Williams noted that to-date, student referrals have decreased year-on-year. Enrollment is currently 433.

With regard to the renewal of PECS Charter with CPS, it was noted that the Charter Renewal public hearing is January 9, 2020 and the meeting for formal approval of Charter Renewals is at the CPS Board meeting on January 22nd.

IV. PECS Promise

Ms. Lewis updated the Board with regard to the PECS Promise Program. She noted that she and Dr. Jones have been working with 8th graders on high school applications,

together with the 17 mentors that are currently in place. One student who has achieved the Daniel Murphy scholarship, and is interested in attending Lake Forest Academy. In the future, we are looking into the option of considering PECS' parents who might be interested in serving as mentors. It is also likely that we will move the start of the PECS Promisementoring program to the beginning of the students' 7th grade year.

Ms. Lewis added that the Class of 2020 is currently on their transition process for high school. Along with Dr. Jones, she has been working hard to put options in front of them. Shadow days have included Holy Trinity, Providence St. Mel, some Noble schools, and Gwendolyn Brooks High school. Both Ms. Lewis and the students were very impressed with Gwendolyn Brooks. From these experiences we may be compelled to introduce shadow days to students earlier, as in 6th grade, so that students have incentives to do well for the 7th grade knowing where they could be with respect to CPS Selective Enrollment schools. We still feel that Englewood STEM is a little "too new" to judge whether or not we should encourage our students to go there. The deadline for GoCPS applications is tomorrow.

Ms. Lewis also has been working to strengthen ties with alumni. About 35% of alumni open the PECS alumni newsletter and Ms. Lewis continues to create opportunities to connect with alumni in person, including possibly for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Finally, regarding volunteers, Ms. Lewis has been working to pull in parents, for example, to help as lunchroom monitors.

V. FINANCIAL/OPERATIONS

Ms. Shelton reviewed in detail the Financial Report, including the year-to-date financials, with the Board, noting comparisons to prior year and to budget. She also noted that PECS is in good shape with regard to cash, assuming the CPS quarterly payments are remitted timely and that CPS honors the hold harmless commitment that it put in place for this school year (pursuant to which PECS is funded based on 467 students). She noted, however, if for any reason CPS isn't timely or doesn't honor its commitment, PECS likely will need to seek a cash infusion from the PECS Foundation.

Ms. Shelton reported that PECS is 100% on-time and compliant with CPS submissions.

Mrs. Shelton updated the Board with respect to the facility issues that the Board has reviewed in the past. In particular, with regard to the roof and the tuck-pointing, she called the CPS property advisor, who came out and did another assessment. He said that he was going to submit a claim for repair, but we have yet to hear from him on the matter. Mrs. Shelton will continue to pursue this and will share more information when it is available.

PECS's technology consultant, Stratosphere, was at PECS today to discuss our network and best practices. Over Christmas break they will update all machines with newer

Windows software systems since Windows 7 will no longer be supported. Microsoft Office also needs to be upgraded from 10 to 13 due to lack of systems support.

Ms. Shelton has arranged is a meeting late January with ORBA (an auditor recommended through INCS) to bid for new auditors.

Finally, Ms. Shelton noted that with regard to the ongoing conversation about 12-month employees and sick pay, further discussion with the finance committee and the academic excellence committee is necessary for a resolution.

VI. Board Committee Reports

a. Recruitment – Mrs. Fourte has informed the Board that she will be stepping back from leading the committee. Dr. Jones gave the Board a report on the recruitment work that he has been leading. He started by noting that he is optimistic about next year in regard to recruitment, noting that there are approximately 184 students in the area who will be transitioning from day cares and preschools and that PECS is actively engaging with the pre-schools regarding these students. Dr. Jones has visited open houses and daycares as well as made contact with some potential new parents. PECS hosted an open house during parent teacher conferences. Weather discouraged people from coming. We will host other events and use other avenues of getting the word out about our school. There is a potential partnership on the horizon with Ounce of Prevention, which has about 35 students. Dr. Jones also noted that we received feedback from 123 parents on a survey that was distributed during Parent-Teacher Conferences; through the survey we learned that 52% of our parents first learned about PECS through friends and neighbors and 25% through preschools and daycares. Further learnings will be discussed in detail with the Recruitment Committee. Finally, Dr. Jones noted that PECS has received 17 applicants to date, whereas at this time last year we had zero.

A lively discussion ensued regarding how to maximize our recruitment so that PECS can increase its enrollment to 500. Discussion among the Board was also had with regard to establishing a Pre-K program at PECS, which the Board agreed to explore as a priority.

b. Development – Mr. Zenner briefed the Board with respect to the actions of the Development Committee. He noted that the goal is to raise over \$100K at the Annual Event (which will take place in Feb) for Semester 3. Mr. Zenner asked each Board Member to commit to fill a half to a full table (half the room plus). The final date of the benefit depends on confirmation of the speaker.

c. Governance- Mr. Bergmann reminded the Board that at the September meeting size of the Board was been increased to 21, and that currently we have 17 board members in place. Mrs. Holling, Dr. Kalinich, Mr. Stevenson, and Mr. Stoops will rotate off next year. We have room to add additional members. Various Board

Members committed to reach out to potential new Board Members. We will also need to add a parent to our Board by the end of 2020. In addition, annual Board Training is required for all directors beginning this year (4 hours for first year and 2 hours each year thereafter); we will coordinate with INCS with regard to programs that satisfy these requirements.

VII. Other Business– None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Mrs. Cain), seconded (Mr. Stevenson) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board is adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, February 15, 2020, 9 a.m. (PECS – 6515 S. Ashland Ave)