

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

At

Virtual Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86360638630?pwd=S05FbFZtNGdmb0FSQXZJZUY4YWkwZD09>

Meeting ID: 891 5854 1959

Passcode: sH2NSs

Saturday, October 23, 2021

9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

DIRECTORS VIA ZOOM AND IN PERSON

Ellen Kollar
Peg Cain
Rona Fourte
Howard Isenberg
Bernard Lilly
Joan Malliband
James Reilly
John Stevenson
John Stoops
Arlen Wiley
Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Matt Bergmann
Cheryl Crockett
Caroline Degenaaars
Tim Dugan
Yolanda Lester
Walter Matthews
Latasha Thomas
Luis Velazquez

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff

Angela Johnson-Williams, Principal, PECS
Shinwe Shelton, Deputy Director of Operations, PECS
Tahanni Ragland, Business Manager, PECS
Dr. Antoine Jones, Recruiter, PECS
Jessica Lewis, PECS Promise, PECS
Khris Dai, University of Chicago Board Fellow
Erica Suleki, University of Chicago Board Fellow

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Mrs. Kollar.

II. Public Participation

No public participation currently.

III. Introduction of University of Chicago Board Fellows

IV. Opening Comments and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. On motion duly made (Isenberg) and seconded (Zenner), the Board unanimously approved the minutes of September 9, 2021.

V. ACADEMICS

a. Academic Report

Mrs. Johnson-Williams reviewed with the Board the Academic Report. She noted that enrollment is currently 425; there are still a few teaching/staff positions that are to be filled; and that our SQRP score will hold at a level 2+ due to COVID, with last true SQRP rating being the 2018-19 score.

There was much discussion regarding NWEA assessments, how to drive learning growth after remote learning, etc. Mrs. Johnson-Williams anticipates monthly growth due to the systems that we have put in place (small groups tutoring, etc.) but that moving the attainment levels will take some time.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams noted that have our largest class of eighth graders at 48 students; she also noted that we will need to rethink our normal graduation process to account for the large number of students and their families.

With regard to student behavior, Mrs. Johnson-Williams noted that moving from remote to in-person learning has been a challenge regarding behavior. She reported that we are still using CHAMPS, an in classroom positive behavior program, and we also are using an SEL (Social Emotional Learning) program called Second Step and have also incorporated several staff members to assist with discipline issues and with Peace Circles. These processes have allowed us to work through behavior issues and not rely on suspensions.

With regard to COVID, Mrs. Johnson-Williams noted that 91% of our employees are fully vaccinated; 9% (5 employees) will submit to weekly COVID testing.

b. Academic Excellence Committee Report

Ms. Cain did not have anything to add with regard to the Academic Excellence Committee following Mrs. Johnson-Williams' thorough review and discussion.

c. Pre-K Review Project

Mrs. Johnson-Williams updated the Board with respect to the status of the Pre-K program, noting that we have hired a teacher and that he scheduled start date is expected to be in early November. The Pre-K space is coming together and so far, there are six students enrolled with several more expected by the launch date.

VI. Financial/Operations

a. Review of 2020-2021 Financials

Ms. Shelton provided to the Board a review of the status of PECS's annual audit, noting that the audit draft will be ready by October 26. Since the audited financials are due to CPS on November 1, Ms. Shelton recommended that the Finance committee review and approve the audit report and audited financials before they are submitted to CPS.

After discussion, on motion duly made (Zenner) and seconded (Fourte), the Board unanimously resolved that the Board hereby delegates to the Finance committee the authority to review and approve the PECS Audit Financial Statements and related Audit Report for School Year 2020-2021 and that following such review and approval, the financials will be submitted to CPS.

Ms. Shelton reviewed in detail the Financial Report with the Board, noting year-to-date actual results, on their own and compared to the budget. She noted that due to the hold harmless arrangements in place, CPS will pay us based on 460 students for the first semester and 448 students for the second semester. She also noted that while ESSER funding is still pending on the cash flow statement reviewed with the Board, we anticipate it will come through in November.

Ms. Shelton also reviewed with the Board the separate Pre-K budget.

b. Legal and Compliance Report – Ms. Shelton reported that we are 100% on time in the Epicenter. We are not in compliance regarding our Board completing all required governance training and follow-ups are in place with the relevant Board members.

c. Operations – Ms. Shelton noted that HVAC is an ongoing issue that we will need to revisit; we are still trying to be put onto CPS' capital budget.

VII. PECS Long-Term Strategy Committee

Mr. Stevenson provided a report from the Long-Term Strategy Committee. He noted that the committee is looking at ways that PECS can reach our enrollment goal of 500 students and otherwise how to ensure long-term sustainable funding to ensure excellence at PECS. Demographics in the Englewood area are not favorable, with population declining; in fact, the Committee has looked at enrollment information at CPS schools near PECS and noted that overall enrollment is down by 36% since 2015 (PECS's enrollment declined 17% during the same period). Mr. Stevenson noted that

while this is a challenge, the committee is moving forward with identifying ways to close the gap.

VIII. PECS Promise

Ms. Lewis reported to the Board regarding PECS Promise. She noted that the first mentor sessions will begin this week and that the program will remain virtual at this time. Since CPS high school acceptance cannot be focused on NWEA this year (because students did not take it last year), all students will take a general enrollment test. PECS is providing test prep classes for our 8th graders in advance of that test.

IX. Recruitment Committee Report

Dr. Jones and Mr. Wiley updated the Board with regard to recruitment. They noted that demographic issues as well as the pandemic brought challenges regarding recruiting, but that PECS was able to maintain a stable enrollment number and is one of the largest schools by enrollment in the area. Deeper engagement with the community will help us in our enrollment efforts. The parent ambassador program has kicked off a word-of-mouth campaign that has proven effective. We are truly grateful to our Kindergarten teachers who have taken on the task of acclimating this Kindergarten class from Pre-K or no school at all into our building. They are doing a magnificent job! The referral program has been enhanced with a larger cash incentive.

X. Development Committee

Mrs. Maliband and Mrs. Degenars are in talks about how to tackle the fundraiser this year. Part of our goal is to keep donors engaged. There will be more information available at the next meeting.

XI. Governance Committee – No report currently.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Fourte), seconded (Cain) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board is adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 9, 2021, via Zoom (4:00 – 6:00pm)