

Providence Englewood Charter School

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

At

444 W. Lake Street, Suite 1800

Chicago, IL 60606

Thursday, April 28, 2022

4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

DIRECTORS VIA ZOOM AND IN PERSON

Ellen Kollar

Matt Bergmann

Peg Cain

Caroline Degenaaars

Tim Dugan

Rona Fourte

Howard Isenberg

Bernard Lilly

Joan Maliband

James Reilly

John Stoops

Latasha Thomas

Arlen Wiley

Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Cheryl Crockett

Yolanda Lester

John Stevenson

Luis Velazquez

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff

Angela Johnson-Williams, Principal, PECS

Shinwe Shelton, Deputy Director of Operations, PECS

Tahanni Ragland, Business Manager, PECS

Jacinta Wallace, PreK Director, PECS

Dr. Antoine Jones, Recruiter, PECS

Jessica Lewis, PECS Promise, PECS

Pastor Matthews, Student Advocate, PECS

Erika Seluki, University of Chicago Board Fellow

Khris Dai, University of Chicago Board Fellow

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Mrs. Kollar.

II. Public Participation

No public participation currently.

III. Opening Comments and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. On motion duly made (Thomas) and seconded (Zenner), the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 26, 2022 Board meeting.

IV. Strategy Discussion – Presentation and Discussion led by University of Chicago Board Fellows

Mrs. Kollar introduced Erika Seluki and Khri Dai, two University of Chicago Booth School of Business school students who together with another student, Pranjal Bhatia, through the Booth Fellows Program, have been working with PECS on a strategic project to explore optimal marketing strategies to address PECS's recent declining enrollment and the longer-term demographic shifts which have led to a declining population in the Englewood community.

Ms. Seluki and Ms. Dai took the Board through a presentation that summarized the work they undertook to understand the current state of affairs at PECS, PECS's desired future state, and steps to take to bridge the gap. They noted that in their work to understand the current state they looked at two primary questions: How good is our school? and Do people know about it?

In answer to the first question – how good is our school? – the Booth Fellows reviewed PECS SQRP rating (Level 2+) as compared to CPS schools within a one-mile radius of PECS. They also looked deeper into the various components of that comprise the SCRIP scores. They noted that, overall, three area CPS schools had higher SQRP scores than PECS, four had the same rating and two had lower ratings. Importantly, when comparing the academic achievement metrics that underlie the overall rating, PECS and three other schools all clearly rated stronger than the other six schools in the area (and essentially the same as each other). The other two SQRP factors – average daily attendance and 5 Essentials Survey – are areas where PECS performed lower than the top schools. Opportunities in these two areas were discussed. It is important to note that CPS has discontinued the SQRP rating and is in the process of developing a new accountability metric. While academic metrics will most certainly be included in the new metric, it is less clear whether there will be a survey component of it and also what

type of attendance metric will be used. It is also important to note that as a result of COVID, the academic elements of the SQRP ratings were last measured in 2019 since those standardized tests were suspended during COVID.

With regard to school quality, the Booth Fellows noted, in addition to the SQRP information, that PECS has the highest enrollment of the comparison schools, and that Mrs. Johnson-Williams was voted INCS Principal of the year.

Ms. Seluki and Ms. Dai reviewed the second question – do people know about PECS? In response to this, the Booth Fellows reviewed PECS’s enrollment data, as well as the current data regarding enrollment for the next school year. They noted the strong re-enrollment and new application numbers as well as actions the recruitment team has been taking to connect with families and develop partnerships with influencers in the community. The development of the Pre-K program was also noted as an important step as well.

Ms. Seluki and Ms. Dai then discussed with the Board their recommendations to drive PECS to our ideal future state of full enrollment. They identified three priorities: increased parent and family involvement; improved data collection and tracking; and targeted and effective marketing communications and events (e.g. clearly communicating PECS’s strengths, such as academic strength, PECS Promise Program, Pre-K and Principal of the Year). They also reviewed in detail strategy ideas for three target markets – current students in Englewood; the rising Latinx population in Englewood; and students who live outside of Englewood.

The Booth Fellows presentation generated much productive discussion among the Board. The Board thanked Ms. Seluki and Ms. Dai for their clear presentation, the comprehensive work that went into it, and the valuable recommendations.

V. ACADEMICS

Mrs. Johnson-Williams took the Board through the detailed Academic Report, including details regarding PECS’s Special Education staffing and challenges. She emphasized PECS’s commitment to provide our students with the Special Education services they deserve and to resolve all issues we currently face. Mrs. Johnson-Williams also reviewed details regarding the Pre-K program and discussed current plans for 8th grade graduation. She also noted that PECS’s summer program, Semester 3, will happen this summer.

Finally, Mrs. Johnson-Williams reviewed with the Board the proposed 2022-2023 Academic Calendar. After discussion, on motion duly made (Cain) and seconded (Thomas), the Board unanimously approved the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar.

VI. Financial/Operations

Mrs. Shelton reviewed with the Board in detail the Financial Report, noting year-to-date actual results, on their own and compared to the budget. She also reviewed some high-level budget projections for next school year, based on various enrollment scenarios. And she reminded the Board that the IFF loan will mature in the fall and that she is working with the Finance Committee to determine the recommended actions in that regard.

Mrs. Shelton also discussed the progress that has been made with CPS regarding capital improvements that are needed to the roof and tuck-pointing. Mrs. Johnson-Williams noted that she recently met with Sean Precious, CPS Director of I&I and that she spoke with him about our building issues; she feels that this has resulted in a breakthrough with CPS. Mrs. Shelton noted her hope that CPS will also put us on the Capital Improvement Budget with regard to our HVAC system replacement and repairs. She noted emergency plumbing repairs that were recently required in response to repeated sewage backups – she has been in contact with CPS about this as well.

Finally, Mrs. Shelton noted that PECS is 100% on time in the Epicenter.

VII. Development

Mrs. Degenars and Mrs. Malliband updated the Board with respect to development matters. They noted that, due to COVID, there will not be an in-person event this year. Instead, the Development Committee has initiated a Direct Ask Campaign. They asked Board members to write personalized notes to potential and past donors. They also noted that a P45, women's boutique in Bucktown, hosted a shopping event where a portion of sales was donated to PECS.

VIII. Recruitment

Mr. Wiley provided an update regarding recruitment. He noted that currently 407 students are enrolled for the upcoming school year and that last year this time, there were 375 students. He expressed confidence in the outreach and recruitment efforts, noting that the efforts look promising and that our Pre-K program has been a booster as well. The goal is still 500 plus students.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Dugan), seconded (Cain) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.