

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

At

PECS, 6515 S. Ashland Ave
Saturday, October 29, 2022
9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

DIRECTORS IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM

Ellen Kollar, Board Chair
Caroline Degenaaars
Tim Dugan
Peg Cain
Kelley Kalinich
Tim Lemberger
Yolanda Lester
Joan Malliband
James Reilly
John Stoops
Arlen Wiley
Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Cheryl Crockett
Rona Fourte
Howard Isenberg
Bernard Lilly
John Stevenson
Latasha Thomas
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
Walter Matthews, Student Advocate, PECS
Jessica Lewis, PECS Promise, PECS

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Mrs. Kollar.

II. Public Participation

No public participation.

III. Opening Comments and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. On motion duly made (Cain) and seconded (Zenner), the Board unanimously approved the minutes of September 8, 2022.

IV. ACADEMICS

Mrs. Johnson-Williams gave the academic report.

She discussed personnel and also noted that SQRP (School Quality Rating Report) will be phased out for all CPS schools moving forward. The new rating system will be implemented for the 2023-24 school year and the IL Assessment of Readiness (IAR) program will be used for the academic piece. IAR is like NWEA in that both measure growth and achievement with percentile rankings, although IAR is a more standardized assessment than NWEA.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams reviewed academic, cultural and business metrics with the Board, noting how those metrics compared to targets and actions being taken. She also noted that PECS's Parent Enrichment program is back!

Mrs. Johnson-Williams then discussed with the Board the need for PECS to adopt a formal Attendance/Truancy Policy, in line with the CPS policy, and to submitted it to ISBE. She noted that she is working with the Academic Excellence Committee to ensure the policy is appropriate for PECS. Following discussion, on motion duly made (Zenner) and seconded (Wiley), the Board unanimously delegated to Mrs. Johnson-Williams and Mrs. Kollar the authority to review, approve and submit to ISBE the Attendance/Truancy Policy.

Pastor Matthews gave to the Board a brief synopsis of our relationship with the SOS Village and the new students from SOS Village who are attending PECS this year. SOS Village is an organization that provides funding, housing, and other support to foster parents with a goal to keep siblings and families that are in foster care together. Pastor Matthews noted that the 13 students (Pre-K through 8th grade) are adjusting to PECS well academically and socially.

Ms. Wallace presented the Pre-K report. She noted that enrollment is 18 students. She reviewed students' academic and developmental progress. She also discussed the field

trip that the PreK took to an apple orchard which was a success, had four parent chaperones and full student attendance. Ms. Wallace then reviewed with the Board the actions being taking to seek funding for the PreK program, noting that a \$5,598 Childcare Restoration Grant, and that other opportunities are being pursued.

Lastly, Ms. Wallace discussed the work she is doing to tracks children that come through the PECS PreK program and matriculate on to PECS kindergarten, to assess their kindergarten readiness, growth, etc.

V. FINANCE/OPERATIONS

Mrs. Shelton reviewed with the Board the audit process and status. There was discussion about the issues that ORBA has had with personnel that has caused the PECS audited financial statements to be delayed and thus not ready for review by the Board at this meeting as intended. The Finance Committee will review appropriate discussions with ORBA, as well as corrective actions, once the audit is complete.

Following discussion, on motion duly made (Stoops) and seconded (Zenner), the Board unanimously authorized the Finance Committee to review, approve and submit the PECS audited financials to CPS, so long as there are no significant findings. In the event any significant findings are identified in the audit, the Board will convene to review.

Mrs. Shelton reviewed with the Board the revised school year budget. The revised budget takes account of actual enrollment, which is lower than initial budget assumptions. Mrs. Shelton took the Board through the cuts that were made as a result, but she, Ms. Kollar and Mr. Dugan all noted that the proposed budget reflects decisions that were made to fund Teacher Assistant and Paraprofessional positions even though these result in an overall budget deficit for the year. They all noted that PECS has a more than sufficient cash balance (was built up during covid) to cover the deficit and that these positions were seen as critical to best serve our students.

Following discussion, on motion duly made (Zenner) and seconded (Kalinich), the Board unanimously approved revised budget as presented.

Mrs. Shelton discussed with the Board the PreK budget of \$256K, which will be funded by the PECS Foundation.

Mr. Dugan updated the Board with respect to the IFF Loan. He noted that the loan was refinanced with IFF, rather than through the PECS Foundation, as discussed at the September Board meeting. The loan can be refinanced at any time, so the Finance Committee will continue to review and will work with the PECS Foundation when appropriate.

Mrs. Shelton noted that PECS compliance with CPS and ISBE requirements is 100%.

VI. PECS PROMISE

Ms. Lewis gave the PECS Promise report to the Board. She discussed the in-person PECS Homecoming alumni event, at which 35-40 alums, from the classes 2013- 2022, were in attendance. She also noted that input she is seeking from PECS alumni with regard to PECS's social media and other outreach.

Ms. Lewis also noted that the PECS Promise mentor program had launched, albeit with lower turnout for mentors than we'd like, that PECS 8th graders took the CPS high school admissions test last week, and that select PECS students participated in an 8-week test prep class with The Critical Thinking Child that was sponsored by the PECS Promise program.

VII. DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Lemberger and Mr. Zenner discussed with the Board the plans to develop a new Associate Board.

Mrs. Degenaaars and Mrs. Malliband discussed plans for an in-person benefit, with a tentative date of February 24th, and plans to include and recognize the founding partnership.

They also discussed the happy reinstating of the annual Teacher Appreciation Holiday Lunch, which will take place Wednesday, December 14th at 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. While discussing teacher appreciation, Dr. Kalinich discussed with the Board the plans that are underway to recreate/update the teacher's lounge.

Finally, Mrs. Degenaaars and Mrs. Malliband noted that the annual appeal letter will be emailed out on Giving Tuesday with a hard copy letter to follow.

VIII. RECRUITMENT

Mr. Wiley reviewed current enrollment numbers with the Board (enrollment settled between 420 to 430). He discussed efforts being taken to pull new students from our waitlist as well as actions being taken to develop the recruitment plan for next school year, including the intention that the PECS website changes will be up and running by the end of December.

IX. GOVERNANCE

A reminder was made to the Board to complete the required continuing education training.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Zenner), seconded (Cain) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 8, 2022, 4:00 p.m., Water Street, 444 W. Lake Street.