



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 16, 2017

201 W. 14th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Minutes

Directors Present: Clint Walker, Trish Blessing, Julia Li, Mia Davenport-Chaney

Directors Absent: Bob Goff, John Kane, Hal Real, Henry Smith, Penny Marshall, Christian Willauer

Others Present: Paul Ramirez, Felicia Wenell, Bill Ray, Leigh Botwinik, Max Matthews, Johnny Mills, Savio Stuart

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum – The meeting was called to order at 8:20 AM without a quorum.

II. School Updates

- a. School Report – Paul Ramirez shared that the school has been focused on preparing students for pre-SAT tests in all grades, with professional development for teachers on this topic. He also noted that interviews are underway for new teachers for the upcoming school year. Felicia Wenell shared that master’s interns recently started working with students failing multiple classes. Julia Li explained that she has already seen this intervention make a difference for some students. Felicia noted that her team is working to identify alternative discipline practices to suspensions that will not reduce class time, and is also encouraging students to use the peer mediation program to resolve conflicts between themselves.
- b. Student Representative Update – Savio Stuart shared that two 10th graders attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards in Maryland. The Wilmington Rotary Club will be helping these students start a leadership club at the school. Savio also shared his experience participating in a model UN in his social studies class.
- c. Staff Member Update – Julia Li has been excited to see students dress up to give class presentations at this time of year.
- d. School Performance Dashboard – Leigh Botwinik presented on the school performance dashboard.
- e. Enrollment/Recruitment Update – Felicia Wenell explained that the school has been holding open houses on Sunday mornings and some Wednesday evenings. The school is very close to meeting the requirement of 80% enrollment by April 1. She answered questions on the school’s marketing strategies and the effects of attrition on recruitment goals.

III. Development

- a. Leigh Botwinik presented on the school’s development activities. She noted that Kelly Davenport has reached out to Wilmington-based sponsors for the annual Bridge to Wisdom fundraiser in Philadelphia. Another donor cultivation breakfast similar to the one held in February is being planned for May.

IV. Financials

- a. Bill Ray presented the February Financial Package. He noted that the school is in a strong position with regard to cash flow. Overall, expenses are running under budget to date. There will be sufficient funds in the operating reserve at the end of the school year to cover summer salary obligations. If the school meets its fundraising goal, the funds raised will increase the operating reserve.

V. Governance

- a. Slate of Staff – Max Matthews explained that the Board is typically asked to vote twice per year to approve the slate of staff to fulfill its power to hire and terminate employees under Delaware’s charter school law. A vote is postponed until the next meeting.
- b. Revised Capitalization Threshold – Max Matthews and Bill Ray explained the reasons for requesting that the Board approve a lower capitalization threshold. A vote is postponed until the next meeting.

- VI. Adjourn** – Clint Walker noted the importance of member attendance in order to reach a quorum at each meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 AM.