

**Polaris Charter Academy**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
 Dial In: 712-432-0490  
 ID: 316557#

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 24th, 2015</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6:30pm (at the school)</b>
<b>Topic(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on test scores &amp; Enrollment</b></li> <li>• <b>Predictive Index and its role in Recruitment</b></li> <li>• <b>Booth MBA Project Update</b></li> </ul>

<b>Board Attendees</b>			
In Person	Via Phone	Not Present	Board Members
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arun Bhatia
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Micaeh Johnson
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uday Khedkar
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kameron Matthews
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joel Pomerenk

<b>School Attendees</b>			
In Person	Via Phone	Not Present	School Leaders & Guests
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Navarre (ex-officio)
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roel Vivit
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CJ Holmes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Linda McEvoy
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carolyn Talaske
<b>Guests</b>			
Lauren Wein			

Joel called the meeting to order at 6:32PM. Uday motioned to approve the January minutes, Joel seconded and all approved.

**Board Topics**

Predictive Index – Uday Khedkar

Uday created the opportunity for PCA to determine the best qualities for the ideal Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman using the Predictive Index software. Predictive Index is a science-based assessment that provides leadership with accurate, actionable data quantifying the unique motivating needs and behavioral drives of each member and potential member. Prior to the board meeting, each board member and selected staff completed a survey and results were discussed. PCA Board members will use these criteria in selecting the next Board Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Booth MBA Project Report – Arun Bhatia

Arun reviewed the final analysis from the Booth MBA partners who provided an outside, objective view of the school through the focus of growth and standing compared to other competitors. The three major objectives determined are:

1. Set a goal to increase test scores into the top half of schools within a two mile radius
2. Take measures to increase fundraising efficiency
3. Board and leadership need to align on goals for school, Board structure, and allocation of duties

Polaris will use these findings and the supporting data received to inform strategic planning moving forward.

**Committee Reports**

State of the School – Michelle Navarre

The Student Enrollment lottery will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. CJ provided a breakdown for the openings and applications submitted for each grade level. Currently there are 27 anticipated open seats, primarily in K and 1<sup>st</sup> grades. Key factors to this are the delay in recruitment mailing and lack of a New Schools event previously hosted by INCS, both of which usually resulted in a large number of applications.

Michelle shared that all but 1 current PCA teacher intend to return for the 2015/2016 school year.

Students completed the first round of PARCC testing and results are expected in Sept/Oct. The second round begins after the spring intercession. Students continue to practice and set goals with teachers for MAP testing, beginning May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Polaris will be moving forward with expulsion hearings for a female 7<sup>th</sup> grade student who created an unsafe learning environment for her peers. This is the first hearing PCA has faced and has contacted resources to aid in the standard

procedure of hiring a lawyer and an independent hearing consultant. The consultant will conduct a trial and provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors who will have final say on the expulsion.

Development – Carolyn Talaske

Current YTD Cash Fundraising is \$246,867 compared to \$583,657 at this time last year. Variance is due to the one-time FY14 gifts from the Walton Foundation (\$250,000) and Invest for Kids (\$188,000). Key factors that mitigate the discrepancy are the greater giving of the Madigan family and Perkins Hunter Foundation and new initiatives such as Giving Tuesday and AB events.

The 2015 Spring Benefit, **Voices for Change**, is schedule for Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago. \$16,000 has been secured with an additional \$10,600 committed but not yet received. PCA is targeting an additional \$10,000-12,500 in sponsorship support to reach its overall event goal of \$65,000 net.

The Associate Board fundraiser **Gardens in the Gutters** was held on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Over 70 participants registered for the event, filling all bowling lanes available. Approximately \$6,700 was raised through the bowling event, with about \$3,500 to be directed to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade garden expedition, approximately 20% more than anticipated.

Public Relations – Carolyn Talaske

The PCA website is experiencing higher traffic compared to previous reports, increasing 70% in the number of unique visitors. Polaris continues activity to engage followers through ecommunications and social media, growing in percent of people opening emails, number of people Liking the Facebook page, and number of followers on Twitter.

Finance – CJ Holmes

The February cash balance is \$1.6M this is compared to \$1.4M last year at this time. Current forecast for close of FY15 net position is \$50,000 to \$155,000 unfavorable, most influenced by contributed support. Overall net unfavorability is driven by multiple factors, most notably enrollment figures well below budgeted levels for most of SY14/15.

Year to date spending is approx. \$62,000, revenue is \$28,000, and Balance of Year Forecast is \$83,000, all favorable to plan submitted to the board and finance committee in January 2015.

Governance – Kameron Matthews

Polaris currently has six prospective board member candidates in the board pipeline at this time. Alan Anderson visited the school on in early January, Vasco Bridges visited on January 10<sup>th</sup> and Bill Kennedy on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. Recruitment conversations continue with Wendy Williams and Dr. Beverly Echols and have just begun Nikhil Angelo.

The Board further discussed the inclusion of an advisory board or committee position opportunity during in the exit interviews for board members. There have been multiple contacts who would be strong resources and likely participants in this capacity, including multiple past Board Chairmen.

Joel was voted Interim Chairman following Uday's departure. Uday motioned to approve, Michelle seconded and all approved.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Tuesday, Apr. 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:30PM	Board Meeting
Thursday, May 7 <sup>th</sup>	6:30PM	Spring Benefit, <b>Voices for Change</b> , at Four Seasons Hotel
Tuesday, May 26 <sup>th</sup>	6:30PM	Board Meeting
Thursday, June 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00AM	Graduation Ceremony at Westinghouse College Prep Auditorium
Tuesday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:30PM	Board Meeting - <b>Conference Call</b>
Wednesday, June 24 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Last day of school for SY2014/2015