

**Polaris Charter Academy
Board Meeting Minutes**

Dial In: 712-432-0490
ID: 316557#

Date:	Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015
Time:	6:30pm (at the school)
Topic(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Approval • Student Enrollment and MAP Data • Board Recruitment and Dashboard

Board Attendees			
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"/>	Kameron Matthews
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joel Pomerenk
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Burnham (Board Fellow)

School Attendees			
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"/>	CJ Holmes
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roel Vivit
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linda McEvoy
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carolyn Talaske
Guests			
John Madigan, Molly Brady, Mona Iehl, Katie Daday			

Joel called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. Michelle motioned to approve the April minutes, Kameron seconded and all approved. Minute approval was conducted at the end of the meeting to optimize time at the meeting's start.

Board Topics

MAP Test and School Rating Update – Linda McEvoy

Linda provided a detailed overview of the components related to Polaris' School Quality Rating (SQRP) as well as the student NWEA MAP testing data. Currently Polaris is a Level 3 school, the lowest level on the SQRP scale, based on last year's testing performance. However, through the school's efforts to better prepare students and student ownership of their scores, Polaris projects it will be at a Level 2, likely a Level 1, in October based on the achieved growth of PCA staff and students scores on attendance, 5Essentials survey results, and preliminary MAP testing results.

Board Recruitment – Kameron Matthews

Kameron provided an update on those in the board recruitment pipeline, of which there are 3 active potential members: Beverly Echols, Hani Zabaneh, and Tina Yarovsky. Jack Crowe and Maggie Blinn DiNovi were also added by Joel and Michelle based on their interest in education and potential for involvement. A discussion of board candidate criteria followed, including a shared desire for a strategic plan of action for board recruitment to be drafted and implemented. The board's next meeting will include a vote on Tina Yarovsky's board candidacy.

Committee Reports

State of the School – Michelle Navarre

Key topic discussed during presentation from Linda. Enrollment activities continue over the summer as the 14/15 school year ends on June 24th and the 15/16 school year begins on August 17th. Current enrollment is 434 students.

Development – Carolyn Talaske

Carolyn provided the results of the 2015 Spring Benefit, **Voices for Change**, on Thursday, May 7th at the Four Seasons. The event raised \$52,100 net, approx. 7% less than last year, and had just over 100 people in attendance, also a decrease to 2014. The leading factor in the decrease is likely due to the decreased size of the board (8 vs. 4 members).

Current YTD Cash Fundraising is \$343,254 compared to \$642,991 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). The budgeted goal for FY15 is \$380,000; variance to budget is due to the second half of the Crown grant (\$50,000) being contingent upon PCA achieving a Level 2 rating or higher.

The Associate Board elections took place on June 8th and resulted in the following officers: President = Shane Emaus, VP = Ian Roche, Secretary = Kim Curschman, Fundraising Chair = Bob Manfreda, Fund. Jr. Chair = Klaudia Lizska, Community Engagement Chair = open, CE Jr. Chair = Denice Davies.

Public Relations – Carolyn Talaske

The website was down again due to an outdated IP address. This did not heavily impact visit frequency.

Finance – Joel Pomerenk and CJ Holmes

Joel and CJ presented a preliminary view of the FY16 budget to the board members. This budget is likely to change upon the release of the CPS budget in August which will provide a per-pupil funding amount. CPS funding could range from remaining flat to a 13% decrease from FY15. For now, PCA is estimating a 5% decrease in CPS per-pupil funding, and avg enrollment of 434, and has prepared a budget to reflect this decrease. The board will be informed upon the release of the CPS per-pupil amount and any major fluctuations from 5% will require an updated budget approval from the board. A check in call is scheduled for Aug. 25 and 27 at 5:30PM.

The May cash balance is \$1.58M this is compared to \$1.71M last year at this time, driven primarily by the late arrival of Special Ed funds. FY15 forecast reflects net income unfavorability of \$10K driven by a shortfall of revenues vs. expenses.

Governance – Kameron Matthews

Key topics were covered during the Board Recruitment discussion. In addition to this, Micaeh verbalized her resignation to Kameron with a letter pending. Kameron moved to accept her resignation, Joel seconded and all approved.

FY16 Board Meeting dates are scheduled as follows below. All meetings will be held in person at the school.

- Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30PM
- Tuesday, October 27th at 6:30PM (Annual Meeting)
- Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30PM
- Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:30PM
- Tuesday, April 26th at 6:30PM
- Tuesday, June 28th at 6:30PM (Budget Approval Meeting)

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, June 24 th	All Day	Last day of school for SY2014/2015
Tuesday, June 30 th	All Day	Close of Fiscal Year 2015
Saturday, July 11 th	10:30AM	AB Workout Event at Ohio St. Beach
Monday, August 17 th	All Day	First day of school for SY2015/2016
Tuesday, August 25 th	5:30PM	Budget Check In Call (back up is August 27 th)
Tuesday, September 8 th	6:30PM	Board Meeting