

**Polaris Charter Academy
Board Meeting Minutes**

Dial In: 312-286-6515

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| Date: | Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016 |
| Time: | 6:30pm (at the school) |
| Topic(s): | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciplinary Hearing • State of the School • Fundraising Path • Spring Event • Governance Reports |

| ATTENDANCE CATEGORY | BOARD MEMBERS & FELLOWS | SCHOOL STAFF |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Attending in Person | Joel Pomerenk Kameron Matthews Arun Bhatia Tina Yarovsky Daniel Epstein Lauren Wein Ben Burnham (** Board Fellow) | Michelle Navarre (**Board Ex Officio) CJ Holmes |
| Attending by Phone/Video | | |
| Not Attending | | Roel Vivit Linda McEvoy |

| EXPECTED GUESTS & VISITORS |
|---------------------------------------|
| Tammy Vance (disciplinary hearing) |

Joel called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Disciplinary Review Hearing

Three students and their parents attended the beginning of the meeting as part of a disciplinary hearing. The students were involved in an incident surrounding bringing a BB gun to school, and one student also brought a live bullet. The Board reviewed background documentation prior to the meeting and was asked to provide a recommendation on whether expulsion would be appropriate.

The students (listed in this document by their initials only) introduced themselves. Tammy Vance, Associate Director provided background on each student's prior disciplinary issues:

- DM: 4 suspensions (most recent in January 2016)
- N: 4 days out (last in December 2015)
- D: 0 suspensions
- DM and N met regularly with Tammy before the current incident.

After the BB gun incident took place, each student was suspended. Upon returning to school, each student began checking in three times per day with Tammy to identify ways to address their behavior challenges. No behavior issues have occurred since the students returned from their suspension.

The students and families each discussed their feelings on the situation and what they would do differently.

- DM: Knows what he did was wrong and put other people in danger. Wants to stay to show he can fix his mistakes.
- N: Learned from his mistakes. Loves Polaris and doesn't want to leave. Has people who care about him; earning their respect is important to him.
- D: Wants to stay because he has teachers, friends, and family who care about him. Realizes what he did was foolish.

Michelle: What have you learned?

- DM: People can change. Don't need to show off for anyone.
- D: Shouldn't do it again. Made a mistake. Doesn't want people to be scared.
- N: Will refuse to do something bad in the future.

Joel: What was the mistake you made?

- All: Having a BB gun in our hands.

Michelle suggested probation with measurable outcomes. She would like to see academic ties (habits of work).

The Board discussed the infraction is very concerned about the incident but agreed not to move forward with expulsion. The students have already served their 10-day suspension, so the ultimate goal is seeing a positive change in behavior going forward. The board discussed the following possible probationary components:

- Cannot be suspended for the rest of the year
- Have a restorative conversation with their crew (5/6)
- Perform some community service hours
- Achieve a minimum rating on the Points of Polaris
- Serve a detention / receive a demerit

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the December 8th meeting were reviewed. Arun moved to approve; Kameron seconded; all approved.

State of the School

MAP Scores: The school must achieve at least 50% of student attainment (in both reading and math) to retain its Level 1 status. Currently, the school is meeting attainment goals at 40% in ELA and 30% in Math. It was noted that math scores may be lower because certain concepts have not yet been covered. The next round of MAP testing will take place in May.

Board Topics

Review Dashboard – CJ, Ben

The Board reviewed and discussed the latest dashboard. Future enhancements include trending data, which can be automated by working with the Learned Metrics database. The Board also discussed developing a separate quarterly disciplinary report to identify trends. This report would present data by grade level and could, for example, capture underlying reasons for suspensions.

Action Item: CJ will look into developing disciplinary report with Learned Metrics by next board meeting.

Fundraising Path – Joel Pomerenk

The school's fundraising goal is \$340,000. The projected path to achieve this is as follows:

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|----------------------|--------|
| Madigan | \$100K |
| Perkins | \$90K* |
| Crown | \$50K |
| Field | \$15K |
| Year-End/Giving Tues | \$13K |
| Spring Event | \$62K* |
| Associate Board | \$10K |

*Target goals

Spring Event – Michelle

This year's event will focus on the resurgence of the peace keeper project. As such, the event will be brought back to the neighborhood – to the Garfield Park Conservatory on Friday, March 20. Rental of the full space will cost \$3500 (5:30pm-10:00pm) and \$500 for each additional hour.

Chris Brailey, Contractor, will help update/maintain the website and event communications, including invitations. She will also work on the Annual Report.

Mary Hicks, former chair of Boundless Readers, will help coordinate the catering portion of the spring event.

Currently, Board attendance commitments range from 60-85 (plus additional commitments from other members of the school).

Michelle will reach out to form a host committee for the event.

Donations for the event's Silent Auction should be directed to Michelle.

Committee Reports

Governance – Kameron Matthews

The following Board roles were formalized and put to a vote by Kameron:

Chair – Joel
Vice Chair – Kameron
Secretary – Tina
Treasurer – Arun

Governance Committee Chair: Kameron
Development Committee Chair: Arun
Finance Committee Chair: Arun

All voted in favor for the roles as stated. The slate of officers and committee chairs was approved.

Board Recruitment – Kameron

Kameron provided names of four possible Board candidates:

- Brian Clark
- Temple Paine (on hold)
- Mary Hicks
- Sam Bottom

Finance – CJ Holmes

CJ reported that CPS funding cuts are confirmed for SY2016 (4.6% cut) and anticipated for SY2017.

The Polaris budget is currently on track for a surplus.

Michelle is still tracking down how to release restricted expansion funds in the future.

Development Role

Michelle has interviewed several candidates for the Development role, but she and her team have not yet identified any strong contenders.

IMPORTANT DATES

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|----------------|--|
| March 22, 2016 | Special Conference Call at 6:00pm to elect new members |
| April 26, 2016 | Board Meeting at 6:30pm |
| May 22, 2016 | Spring Event |

At approximately 9:45PM, Joel moved to adjourn the meeting. Arun seconded and all approved.