Arun Bhatia called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the June 27th meeting were reviewed. Joel moved to approve; Lauren seconded; all approved.

State of the School

Various Updates: (Michelle)

New School Year

- We kicked off the school year with a week of new teacher training.
- Francesca Peck and Melissa Authement have transitioned to Director level positions focused on supporting teachers’ professional development.

Enrollment

Our current enrollment is 436 students (which is 9 shy of our budgeted count of 445). Current breakdown is as follows:

- Kindergarten 41
- First Grade 42
- Second Grade 55
- Third Grade 49
- Fourth Grade 55
- Fifth Grade 48
- Sixth Grade 45
- Seventh Grade 48
- Eighth Grade 53
We currently have 15 additional students in process (pending some final paperwork). We need to be at 445 (minimum) by October 2\textsuperscript{nd}, as this number becomes the budgeted funding per pupil from CPS.

**Hiring Update**
Current open positions are as follows:
- 2.5 Learning Specialist Positions (very difficult to find/recruit certified special education teachers)
- 2 Paraprofessional Positions (one-on-one aides; have had many applicants)
- 1 Academic Operations position (begin interviewing in September)

**NWEA Map Testing – Initial Results (from Spring 2017)**
- **Attainment Percentile**
  - Reading: 41\textsuperscript{st}
  - Math: 51\textsuperscript{st}
- **Growth**
  - Reading: 6.9 average growth; 68 growth percentile
  - Math: 8.2 average growth; 61 growth percentile
- **Meeting Goals**
  - 60% met math goal score
  - 56.61% met reading goal score
- **Initial Data**
  - 56.6% met reading goal; 60% met math goals
  - Early SQRP projected between a 2.5 and a 1

**EL Education Implementation Review**
This review is designed to...
- Determine the level of implementation of EL Education practices
- Track growth of school’s implementation practices over time
- Provide standardized scores to allow an analysis of relationship between implementation and other outcomes
- Inform the work plan and professional development activities for the school

Current score: 118 (out of a maximum of 130); this puts Polaris in the highest tier.

**How Scores Influence School Year Goals**
NWEA scores and the EL Education Implementation Review inform the school’s work plan. For 2017-18, the following student outcome goals have been set:

- **NWEA Growth Targets**
  - Math: 65\textsuperscript{th} meeting/exceeding
  - Literacy: 62\textsuperscript{th} meeting/exceeding

- **NWEA Attainment Targets**
  - Math: 55\textsuperscript{th} percentile
  - ELA: 50\textsuperscript{th} percentile
Committee Reports

Development Committee: (Lauren, Elizabeth)

Grant Pipeline
- We applied for the Invest for Kids grant but did not receive it.
- We received the first Crown installment payment of $50,000.
- We are researching various foundation grants to focus our application efforts (locally and nationally).
- We need to identify individual major gift prospects to begin engagement

Action Item: For our next meeting, Elizabeth will build out a development pipeline document to forecast what percentage will come from grants, individual donors, and the annual fundraiser.

Marketing Plan
- We need to build a marketing plan that will result in a strong annual report that can be given to corporations and individual donors by the end of the school year.
- We will begin by assessing current state of marketing/advertising.
- We will then identify key messages that can help us tell compelling stories.

Action Item: Claire will assemble a subcommittee to pull together marketing experts with subject matter experts and move the marketing program forward. This subcommittee will be comprised of Melanie, Ben, and Sam.

Associate Board
- Associate Board members met in July to regroup for the 2017-18 school year.
- AB members are targeting early October for a visit to the school.
- In the next meeting, the AB will identify ideas/dates for 1-2 fundraising events for the 2017-18 school year, as well as ideas for recruiting 3-5 additional AB members.
- The next Associate Board meeting is scheduled for 9/21.

Governance Committee: (Arun)
- We need to refocus on strengthening our Board pipeline, given recent departures
- We have identified a possible Finance Committee member, Mike Davison.
- Michelle will reach out to Phil Perkins’ brother to initiate discussion about board involvement.
- Arun/Lauren will reach out to Ben Burnham to assess interest.
- In October, we will have board elections. In preparation, Arun will circulate role descriptions to the Board for consideration

Action Item: We need to amend bylaws to allow for non-board members to take part on a committee.

Finance Committee: (Elizabeth, Joel)

FY2017 Financials
- We had initially estimated finishing FY2017 at a loss but ended up with preliminary net income of $34,591.

FY2018 Budget
- The FY2018 budget has been adjusted slightly from the June meeting. It continues to include a salary adjustment for teachers, an investment in marketing, and a significant increase in revenue from private funding. Dan moved to approve the preliminary budget; Lauren seconded; all approved.

Note: If we decide to increase marketing spend, the budget will need to be adjusted accordingly in the October meeting.

Dashboard
- We reviewed the dashboard and will continue to populate it on a regular basis.
IMPORTANT DATES

December 12, 2017 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM

At approximately 8:42 PM, Michelle moved to adjourn the meeting; Joel seconded; all approved.