Arun Bhatia called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.

Board Topics

**Election & Term of Officers**

The Board voted on the following candidates for officer and committee chair positions for the 2017-2018 school year:

- **Chairman** – Arun Bhatia
- **Vice Chairman** – Melanie Domer
- **Treasurer** – Arun Bhatia
- **Secretary** – Tina Yarovsky
- **Head of Finance Committee** – Arun Bhatia
- **Head of Governance Committee** – Sam Bottum
- **Head of Development Committee** – Lauren Wein

Chairman – Michelle moved to nominate Arun Bhatia; Lauren seconded; all approved.

Vice Chairman – Michelle moved to nominate Melanie Domer; Lauren seconded; all approved.

Treasurer – Michelle moved to nominate Arun Bhatia; Sam seconded; all approved.

Secretary – Sam moved to nominate Tina Yarovsky; Michelle seconded; all approved.

Head of Finance Committee – Michelle moved to nominate Arun Bhatia; Lauren seconded; all approved.

Head of Governance Committee – Dan moved to nominate Sam Bottum; Michelle seconded; all approved.

Head of Development Committee – Daniel moved to nominate Lauren Wein; Sam seconded; all approved.
Election of New Board Member

Arun moved to approve Mike Davison as a new member of the Polaris board; Michelle seconded; all approved.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the August 22 meeting were reviewed. Arun moved to approve; Sam seconded; all approved.

State of the School

Various Updates: (Michelle)

**EL Education National Conference**
- This year’s conference took place in Chicago in October with about 1400 educators attending.
- Polaris hosted a pre-conference day focused on culture and character with over 90 attendees.
- Two Polaris graduates served as conference emcees; 26 Polaris teachers and administrators attended.
- Nine Polaris teachers and administrators taught Master Classes.
- Eight students served as student ambassadors.
- Michelle won a leadership award; the recipient is nominated by his/her school and chosen by peers.

**Special Education Update & SPED Shortage**

Polaris was allotted an additional 2.5 Learning Specialist positions; however, there is a very limited pool of candidates in Chicago. Currently, two teachers are covering this need, which is not sufficient. Polaris is actively searching for qualified candidates.

**2017-2018 SQRP Rating**

Polaris received a Level 1 rating (3.7), which is on the high end of the charter average for elementary schools. Last year, Polaris received a rating of 3.8. Diverse learner groups are an issue (related to special education recruitment challenges). Math continues to go up, though reading is starting to dip. A greater emphasis on literacy has been built into the 2017-2018 work plan. The overall rating is based on Attainment and Growth. (Growth becomes more challenging to achieve as students excel.)

**2017-2018 Work Plan**

- **Master of Skills and Knowledge**
  - Design assessment and learning experiences to grow students’ mastery of targets
  - Differentiate to support mastery of skills/knowledge for all students
  - Develop structures/provide time for students to analyze data, set goals, and reflect on growth

- **High Quality Student Work**
  - Create learning experiences to engage students in complex thinking and develop quality work
  - Prepare students for evidence-based discourse
  - Design opportunities for students to revise/refine their ideas and work

- **Character**
  - Utilize crew structure to develop character, cultivate productive relationships, and foster leadership
  - Implement ongoing goal setting and reflection structure to support character development
  - Plan for character development when designing lessons, experiences, and assessments

**Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC) Budget**

A new Illinois State law has changed the school funding requirement from 75-125% to 97-103%

- No longer legally obligated to give charter schools SGSA funding
- No more SPED funding (with the exception of some IDEA funding)
- Unfunded pension liability of $1,304 per student
- Facilities fee of $1,294 per student
- Interest on short term debt of $74 per student
- 3% administrative fee
- 11.16% pension for SPED teachers

Despite these changes, Polaris will still come out ahead with funding. We currently estimate $200,000 more per year. These changes go into effect mid-year.
Building Safety
Environmental Services is visiting the building to ensure there are no safety issues/hazards for teachers and students.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: (Arun)

Changing CPS Budget Model
- Given the changed budget model, the Finance Committee is working to shift the budget model. We are required to submit the new budget model to CPS by January 20.

Audit
- The annual audit was completed in October. Overall, it was a smooth process.

Development Committee: (Elizabeth)

Giving Tuesday
- This year's Giving Tuesday efforts yielded just over $2,398.

End of Year Giving
- We will be sending a holiday card for the year-end giving campaign, which will contain quotes from students.
- Last year, we raised just over $8,000. The goal is to match this, at minimum.

Spring Benefit
- We are targeting a Thursday in May for this year's Spring Benefit. Elizabeth will send out a Doodle to capture availability.
- We are considering going back to the Blue Plate space from last year; they gave us a very good deal, and the space was well-received.
- Board members should offer any additional suggestions to Elizabeth.

Associate Board
- The Associate Board held a Trivia Night in November. Only 19 people attended, but we raised $400. This was a good start for the Associate Board.
- Matt McKay (Chair) and Ian Roche (Vice Chair) visited school in December.

Upcoming Events
- December 14: Family Fun Night winter event at the school
- December 15: Monthly Father Friday, where fathers and father figures greet students
- December 18: Monthly Mom Monday, where mothers and mother figures greet students
- December 21: Polaris staff holiday party; Board is invited

Marketing Sub-Committee
- Met on September 25 to begin working on a marketing plan
- Next meeting is targeted for January

Additional Note
We have received notification of our first Daniel Murphy scholar ($100,000 high school scholarship over four years). More details to follow.

IMPORTANT DATES
February 27, 2018            Board Meeting at 6:30 PM
April 24, 2018               Board Meeting at 6:30 PM

At approximately 8:34 PM, Michelle moved to adjourn the meeting; Mike seconded; all approved.