

**Polaris Charter Academy  
Board Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday, April 12, 2021</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6:30pm (conducted via Zoom to achieve necessary social distancing)</b>
<b>Topic(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State of the School Review</b></li> <li>• <b>Board Committee Reports</b></li> </ul>

<b>ATTENDANCE CATEGORY</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS &amp; FELLOWS</b>	<b>SCHOOL STAFF</b>
Attending in Person	N/A	N/A
Attending by Zoom	Tina Yarovsky Melanie Domer Chris Haworth Keith Muhammad Sam Bottum Rebecca Shapiro	Michelle Navarre
Unable to Attend	Lacey Mizell Ian Roche Ben Brenton Mike Davison	

Tina Yarovsky brought the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

**February 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Chris Haworth moved to approve the February minutes as-is. Sam Bottum seconded. All approved. No opposed.

**Open Space for Public Comment**

No attendees for public comment.

**State of the School**

- **Facility Update:** exterior capital improvements (roof, windows) began today. Work will be completed from 3pm – 11pm throughout the Spring, and then for full days beginning June 14 through August 23. Michelle will flag any concerns to the board via email.
- **Staffing Update:** Several staff members transitioning out of Polaris end of the year.
- **Testing Update:** CPS has not provided any update re: NWEA MAP testing, so Michelle is making an assumption that this test will not be mandated this Spring. However, the IL BOE has mandated that all 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders take the Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) in person (unclear how remote learners will be able to take the assessment). Polaris plans to test all students over a 4 week window, beginning 4/28.
- **Reopening Update:** 155 students plan to return to in-person instruction 2 days a week. Most age cohorts will be within a learning pod, with the exception of K, which will have 2 pods. Detailed

reopening plans were shared by Michelle and emailed during the meeting. April 19 is return to school day.

- Charter Renewal: Polaris' charter needs to be renewed by CPS. CPS' focus will be on finance and operations, since the school has no current academic data that CPS requires (e.g. MAP testing scores). Michelle to share a list of CPS board members with Polaris BOD – do we have existing relationships with anyone on CPS Board?
- Student Recruitment: EAs are working in the community outside of school hours to generate demand. Michelle will have fairly firm numbers in May, which is a little later than the norm, driven by the pandemic.

## **Board Committee Updates**

### **Finance Committee Review**

- Polaris received an email noting that the PPP funding loan will be forgiven
- *Committee did not meet this month, so they have no report to share*

### **Governance Committee Review**

- *No Governance update this month*

### **Development Committee Review**

- Annual target: \$348K; \$180K year to date
- Spring Fundraising Event on May 26: \$51K target. Event will be 30 minutes long and will begin at 7pm. Development Committee is working on a theme / idea for the event.
- Major Gifts Program: Slides and script are being revised coming out of run-thrus with the Development Committee, and subsequently with a former board member (Uday). Next round is to review with Darren Snyder + Joel Pomerenk.

### **Goal Setting / Head of School Evaluation**

- Committee (Tina, Ian, Sam, Chris) is working on implementing a plan for this year.

At 8:03pm, Michelle Navarre moved to adjourn the meeting. Keith Muhammad seconded. All agreed.