

**Polaris Charter Academy  
Board Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday, August 16, 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 Chris Haworth Ben Brenton Mike Davison Ian Roche Lacey Mizell Sam Bottum Michelle Navarre	Elizabeth Whiting John Lydon
Unable to Attend	Melanie Domer	

Tina Yarovsky brought the meeting to order at 6:41pm.

**June 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Tina Yarovsky moved to approve the June minutes. Michelle Navarre seconded. All approved. No opposed.

**Open Space for Public Comment**

No attendees for public comment.

**State of the School**

- John Lydon will be joining moving forward
- Lisette Sanchez will also be joining moving forward - out today due to current audit
- Facility - roof leaks being addressed, running into snags currently. 7 windows in three rooms are more than 10 days behind schedule, no windows in classrooms and inoperable. 3-4 days of installation caused start of school to August 30.
- 5 days vacation taken from staff as a result
- Additional water damage to gym and dining room ceiling. Lead paint abatement needed which may cause lunches to be eaten in classrooms

- Tina asked if Lisette will be helping with Facilities related operations. Michelle mentioned she is locked in audit and charter renewal budget - will be integrated into operations afterward
- John Lydon presented Polaris Y22 work plan
  - 5-year impact goals - Mastery of Knowledge and Skills (60%+ SGP), Character (85% BELE survey responses), and High Quality Work (75% Quality Work Protocol)
  - Staff/Student growth - Professional Development Plan
  - Academics - Curriculum shift highlighting student discourse and problem solving at a high level. Further promotes inclusion and representation. Does not involve much change for teachers. All new curriculum programs are highly rated and highly regarded in EL communities. Leverage data to properly assess students and drive strategy.
- Tina asked if we can get reports by October to gauge initial progress - John mentioned data will be available in first 3 weeks
- Charter Renewal submitted this Friday, 8/20. Timelines for Renewal steps could change because of CPS personnel changes. Michelle mentioned strong financials and strong disciplinary history will help.
- Enrollment continues to be a concern. Numbers change every day/week. 373 fully enrolled. 429 anticipated. Unenrollment/transfers create logistical problems.
- Staffing: looking for one more SpED teacher. Current SpED to have twins in fall. 2nd grade may need additional teacher as there are 27 students in 2nd grade and anticipate 2 more. Worry is that teacher will be hired and numbers may stay at 30-32 (supposed to only have 27 per class).
- Legal - received EEOC letter saying they are not proceeding with investigation but there has been stated intent to file lawsuit from former teacher. PPP update - concluded report and refused to share details. Wait and see.
- Critical Race Theory - well-funded attack on anti-racist and equitable schools. Citizens for Renewing America and Parents Defending Education are two organizations leading this effort. Educators are under attack and being FOIA'd for lesson plans. Michelle referenced contemporaries in New York and Idaho who have come under attack. We believe deeply in this work and are rooted in truth - need to be aware that critical thinking is under attack. Legislative attacks happening throughout the country at local and state levels. EL Education is planning for scenarios to make sure schools are supported at an individual level.
- Michelle's computer died at 7:41 - will jump back on. John finished explanation of CRT and the politicized attack of critical thinking.
- Michelle called 911 twice in last two weeks because of gunshots. Kids and construction workers everywhere - safety plan created. Plan enabled this morning after shots heard nearby. Michelle referenced how uncomfortable parents/teachers are with these incidents.

## **Board Committee Updates**

### ***Finance Committee Review***

- Budget approved last meeting. Finance meeting was canceled, so Mike said nothing new to report. Strong cash balance and no concerns. Carol to update data and report to be sent.
- Tina asked if there are things we should have in mind moving forward as we have a strong cash balance. Michelle said to wait for enrollment numbers - if strong, we can look to talk investment in October.

### ***Governance Committee Review***

- Melanie out, but Tina updating. October meeting is officer elections. Chairs and officer roles will need to be filled. Mel rolling off board in fall.
- Few irons in fire
  - Lacey referrals - two gentlemen with Education background (high school and familiar w EL model). Interested in learning more. Preliminary conversations have been had. Leveraged case for support. Asked for feedback and resume for Board to review. One replied and is speaking to Mel soon.
  - Allison Jack (INCS) - convo revolving around potential leads and finding Board members. Tina to report on talk
  - UofC Booth alumni pipeline - registration for recruitment due soon. Tina to register for possible recruitment channel
- Tina asked about training due dates - Michelle mentioned December 1 for both trainings (FOIA and OIA).

### ***Development Committee Review***

- Chris/Elizabeth - Giving Crew day is 9/4 (15 year anniversary!). \$15K for 15 years is what we're thinking as it gets promoted. Postcards coming. Look to leverage social media. Smaller ask, but communication to circles is vital.
- Meeting next week to get back on Major Donor planning and implementation. Leo Latz continues to work with us and will dedicate time to moving this forward.

\*Michelle is planning for potential concerns in the next few months as the climate around in-school learning may change.

At 8:12pm, Ben Brenton moved to adjourn the meeting. Ian Roche seconded. All approved. None opposed.