

**Polaris Charter Academy  
Board Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday, October 18, 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 Ian Roche Lacey Mizell Sam Bottum Michelle Navarre Mike Davison	John Lydon
Unable to attend		Elizabeth Whiting

Tina Yarovsky brought the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**August 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Sam Bottum moved to approve the August minutes. Tina Yarovsky seconded. All approved. No opposed.

**Open Space for Public Comment**

No attendees for public comment.

**Board Position/Committee**

- Board Positions
  - Chair - Tina Yarovsky
  - Vice Chair - Chris Haworth
  - Secretary - Lacey Mizell
  - Treasurer - Mike Davison

Ben motioned to bring appointments to approval. Sam seconded. All in favor - new roles for 2021-2022 officers are set.

- Committees
  - Finance: Sam, Mike, and Ben - working to maintain positive work
  - Governance: Lacey and Tina - working to understand compliance and focusing on creating a healthy board pipeline for future involvement and growth
  - Development: Ian and Chris - working to build and pivot moving forward

- Committee Chairs
  - Mike Davison - Finance
  - Ian Roche - Development
  - Lacey Mizell - Governance
- Once calendars have been created, include Michelle as she plans to join each committee meeting
- Look to have meetings (at least) during months between Board meetings
- Have brief report ready for December meeting with areas of focus readily identifiable for 2022.

### **State of the School**

Charter Renewal is wrapping up.

- Created community impact narrative to show school's positive influence in community.
- Family and student questionnaire - why do parents choose Polaris? Due 11/5. Community has been informed as to why it is necessary.
- Academic standards meets standards. SQRP - 3.4 meets standards. Financial standards looks to be exceeds standards. Operational performance - Michelle believes it will be at meets standard.
- Public Hearing to be held on 11/18. Will let us know if board support is needed.
- Board vote on 12/15.
- John Lydon has been instrumental in getting this prepared.

Headcount - Polaris budgeted for 435 students. As of the 20th day of school, 56 kids have transferred. Current headcount is 405 - \$200K short of anticipated revenue. Do anticipate some students return during year.

Attendance - down this year, specifically in primary grades. Attendance typically ~97% so this is a genuine concern.

Covid - System in place to ensure health and safety. Scheduled cleaning, care rooms, contact tracing, high-touch cleaning all in place. Tiring but has been successful so far. Vaccination clinics held to try and boost vaccinations in the community...will host more when children's vaccinations are available.

John Lydon - Star Assessments

1 out of 3 schools nationwide rely on this assessment

- *K-2 - literacy*
- *1-8 - Math*
- *3-8 - Reading*

Grades 2-4 are at the most risk and below expectation for Math. Very hard to learn virtually.

Grades 1-2 are at the most risk for literacy.

Grades 3-8 - 3rd and 4th grade have the most need for intervention

MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) - three tiers of intervention to address issues:

- Tier 1 - what all students receive
- Tier 2 - small group instruction
- Tier 3 - 1 on 1 instruction.

If student goes through all 3, IEPs can be considered/utilized.

Targeted intervention work has been folded into daily schedules for grades 5-8 starting T2. Polaris is utilizing data and working to create an effective way to intervention in a Covid world.

Teachers can pull from the top as interventionists push from the bottom. Progress all over.

2nd assessment to take place in December.

Having never used this format, need to look at mid-year assessment (in December) to form a true goal for end of the year. Need to give staff breathing room so this is launched thoughtfully and sets everyone up for success.

FOIA/OMA training - Due by 12/1. Needs to be done on time! Michelle to send gentle reminders. Tina suggested having it done before Thanksgiving to ensure timing works out and we're not dinged for being late.

## **Board Committee Updates**

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

- Mike said committee just met this morning, no report but a few things:
  - enrollment - \$200K in revenue anticipated
  - still need to show proof of Covid spending to receive \$400k grant (Essex fund) from CPS
- On budget otherwise, nothing new to report. \$3m in cash on hand. Balance sheet is strong at the moment.
- Payroll credits as part of Jobs Act - Mike to research to see if there is money available. Firms can apply for you for a fee and/or percentage.
- Emergency connectivity fund - Grant for over \$100k of equipment accepted! 2nd round available as well!

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

- Couple leads in the pipeline
  - 1. Amy Nowell - academic background who can be a good thought partner from the Board. Alison Jack recommendation from INCS.
  - 2. Lauren Levine - Michelle was introduced to her through a colleague in Detroit. Has served on boards in the past (development work).

- Booth fellows: grad students who receive credit for working with boards. Can leverage to help with governance projects. Two fellows were designated to us. Tina to find more out later this week.

Charter Board Training: 2 hours of recorded training - Natalia Blanco sent most of us access to library. Please get it done by Thanksgiving.

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

- Giving crew day - over \$4500 which is above goal. Special thanks to Tina for tapping into her circles.
- Spring fundraiser - hoping to do something in person to celebrate 15 years! Ian and Chris to build out in the interim.

### **Miscellaneous**

Next board meeting on 12/6.

Best of Me will be up through December on campus. Go see it y'all.

20 Polaris students were part of extensive EL training. They were part of a Zoom conference and served as student resources. Did an amazing job. Eloquent. Honest. Spoke to the impact Polaris has on their development. Received hand-written thank you messages from participants.

At 8:33, Sam Bottum moved to adjourn the meeting. Ben Brenton seconded. All approved. None opposed.