

Polaris Charter Academy
Board Meeting Minutes
 Dial-in: 712-775-7031
 PIN: 519622

Date:	Monday, December 6th, 2021
Time:	6:00pm (at Carlucci Restaurant, Rosemont)
Topic(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key State of the School Updates • Board Committee Reports

ATTENDANCE CATEGORY	BOARD MEMBERS & FELLOWS	SCHOOL STAFF
Attending in Person	Sam Bottum Mike Davison Tina Yarovsky Lacey Mizell Michelle Navarre	John Lydon Elizabeth Whiting Francesca Peck Nora Ryan Lissette Sanchez Tammy Vance
Attending by Phone		
Unable to Attend	Ben Brenton Chris Haworth Ian Roche Chirag Sanchetti	

EXPECTED GUESTS & VISITORS
Lauren Levine, Amy Nowell, Darren Snyder, Jake Myron

Tina Yarovsky, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM.

Opening Business/Open Session

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the October 18th meeting were reviewed. Sam Bottum moved to approve the minutes; Lacey Mizell seconded; all approved, none opposed.

Open Session for Public Comment

No one for public comment.

New Board Member Vote

Lauren Levine was voted in with a Motion from Sam Bottum and a second from Mike Davison, Lauren was unanimously voted in.

State of the School (Michelle Navarre)

Charter Renewal – 12/15 CPS Board Meeting. 1/6/22 Public Hearing. 1/23/22 Board Meeting Vote. Document submission timelines have previously not met standard. That said, our current on time rate is 96% and 100% submitted. IEP percentages are low due to inability to hire related service providers, several positions remain open at this time.

Work Plan in 2022 to include:

Mastery of Knowledge and Skills:

LT 1.1: I can analyze curricula to plan rigorous, joyful instruction that facilitates student growth.

LT 1.2: I can strategically use data to drive instruction, monitor progress, and empower students to become leaders of their own learning

Character:

LT 2.1: I can lead Crew lessons that support student reflection in their growth and development in the Points of Polaris.

LT 2.2: I commit to a mindset rooted in the tenets of restorative practices that engage my Crew in preventative, responsive, and solutions-oriented disciplinary structures.

High-quality Work:

LT 3.1: I can enhance student products by incorporating fieldwork, experts, and services learning.

LT 3.2: I can design authentic, community connections for student products that make learning meaningful.

Multi-tiered system of support to include three tiers:

1 – School-wide, data driven instruction designed for all students in all settings.

2 – Small group, targeting students' specific needs and providing additional instructions in focused areas.

3 – Intensive, individualized interventions 3-5% of the school's population will require tier III

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

Additional staff is needed to help decrease group size, ongoing intensive professional development.

Board Committee Review

Finance committee review

- Revenue is \$111k below plan driven mainly by student count. The plan assumed 430 students. Current enrollment is at 401.
- CPS Funding based on student counts down \$96k
- Misc. CPS Funding including Covid related down \$28k
- School lunch program down \$41k
- Donations above plan by \$51k due to Madigan donation

- CPS receipt of \$800m could translate into additional funding of \$530 per student, still pending final results.
- Clean opinion from auditors for 2020/2021 financial statements
- Board approval for Synergi partners to receive credits for employee retention credits under Cares Act. Company retains a percentage of what they collect as payment for their services.
- Cash balances are still strong with \$2.9M on hand at the end of September, however they are lower than the \$3.3M on hand at the same time last year.
- ~\$327k restricted to start-up & expansion costs

Governance Committee Review

- Primary goal will be to organize documents for everyone's access in Google classroom, using University of Chicago Fellows to help create and organize.
- 2022 will be used to develop controls for Board compliance, calendar requirements and deadlines, develop and onboard new board members, including a training deck.
- Oversee existing committee engagement with centralized lists of meeting dates, goals, and expectations.
- Review of bylaws is planned by a 3rd party.

Development Committee

-Benefit will take place May 19th, 2022, with June 2nd as a back-up date.

- Goal of raising \$115,000+ in fundraising dollars. Focusing on Giving Crew Day, End of Year Appeal, and the Spring Benefit

- Major gift program goal of \$215,000, with utilization of the Latz & Co. partnership. Board network will need to be engaged. Targeted increase of \$25,000 from major donors.

- Grants goal of \$20,000, which Elizabeth is working on, gearing more toward specific grants to include, social justice, arts/activism. Received Back2School Illinois Grant: in-kind donation of 450 back to school kits.

- Board participation is key in the success of these goals, reaching out to your network and engaging new guests to attend the in-person Spring Benefit.

At 9:09, Sam Bottum moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Davison seconded. All approved. None opposed.