

Polaris Charter Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Dial-in: 712-775-7031 PIN: 519622

Date:	Monday, June 20th, 2022
Time:	6:30pm (Via Zoom to achieve social distancing)
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 Via Zoom	Tina Yarovsky Mike Davison Chris Haworth Lauren Levine Michelle Navarre Ian Roche	John Lydon Francesca Peck Lissette Sanchez Elizabeth Whiting
Attending by Phone		
Unable to Attend	Sam Bottum Bennett Brenton Lacey Mizell	

EXPECTED GUESTS & VISITORS

Tina Yarovsky, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Opening Business/Open Session

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 4th meeting were reviewed, approved. Motion made by Michelle, 2nd by Ian. All in favor.

Open Session for Public Comment

No one for public comment.

State of the School (*John Lydon*)

- Polaris is wrapping up the 2021-22 school year and celebrating a fantastic 8th grade Lake Geneva Retreat and graduation. This year's Final Words were some of the best they've ever seen.
- EL Implementation Review – instrument contains 26 “Power Practices” rubrics to help determine strengths and weaknesses. 98 or higher is considered “highly implementing”. PCA scored 98 this year, which is historically low, but not a surprise due to COVID-related challenges.
- COVID is at 3.2% positivity in the community. Two crews are quarantined.
- Chose STAR ASSESSMENT to review student performance because CPS is using that scale for their Student Growth Percentile.
- Key takeaways include:
 - These statistics need to be reviewed with an equity lens.
 - Anything above 50% is good, anything above 60% is outstanding
- Document Submission Timeliness has increased to a 98% on-time rate.
- Hiring and enrollment are currently ongoing. Very pleased to have SLP and ELA professionals confirmed for next year. Excited to start the 2022-23 school year fully staffed.
- Improving the Recruitment Strategy is important because the West Side of Chicago is experiencing population decline, especially among families with children:
 - created a year-long recruitment calendar, instead of a spring and summer schedule
 - working with local daycares
 - the recruitment team has created a full summer calendar of events
 - aiming for 10-15 children over the goal because of concern over last minute moves
 - also working with a student recruitment specialist regarding how to target a specific grade level enrollment
- December 7-9 EL Education Conference will be held in Chicago. The school will close during the conference. Michelle is negotiating with EL in order to invite all staff members at an affordable price.
- End of July there are math PD days for teachers
- August 15 school re-opens

Finance Committee

- Financial highlights May 2022 ytd: Net income favorable to plan by \$189k
- Revenue is ~\$55k below plan driven by the following:
 - \$200k negative variance due to fewer students than planned
 - \$318k negative variance due to the School Lunch program – this is offset in the expense section
 - \$91k negative variance due to CPS miscellaneous funding.
- Total expenses are \$243k favorable to budget mainly due to:
 - ~\$332k positive variance in food service expense (varies with revenue side)
 - \$31k negative variance in Occupancy due mainly to increased cost in utilities.
- CPS is scheduled to receive ~\$800M from the recent \$900B stimulus bill that Congress passed.
- Cash balances are still strong with \$3.5M on hand at the end of May. This is higher than May 2021.

- ~\$327k restricted to start-up and expansion costs
- With the change in interest rate environment, we will begin looking at ways to invest some of our reserves to earn a return. Objectives will be 1) safety of principal 2) liquidity 3) rate of return

Approval of 2022-23 Annual Budget

- Chris Haworth moved to approve the proposed budget. 2nd by Ian Roche. All in favor

Closed Session

- Compensation adjustments were voted on in a closed session

Development Committee

- 2022 Benefit was a success
- Major story of the night was that sponsorships were the largest source of funding
- Ticket sales lagged
- Special thank you to Elizabeth for her hard work on this fundraiser.
- Ian and Lauren recommended we look into “give or get” board responsibility. No specific next steps were identified.
- PCA is \$16,000 over annual fundraising target

Governance Committee

- Reminder that INCS trainings are due 12/15
- Tina will connect with each board member across the summer to check-in regarding their future commitment and brainstorm about potential board members in their networks.
- Looking for Board Members with legal and academic backgrounds.

Important Dates:

August 15 is the first day of the 2022-23 school year.

December 7-9 is the EL Education Conference in Chicago

INCS training due 12/15

Meeting was called to adjourn by Lauren. 2nd by Ian at 8:42 pm.

Notes submitted by Lauren Levine