

**Polaris Charter Academy
Board Meeting Minutes**

Date:	Monday, October 17th, 2022
Time:	6:30pm (Via Zoom)
Topic(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Elections & Committee Assignments • Key State of the School Updates • Board Committee Reports

ATTENDANCE CATEGORY	BOARD MEMBERS & FELLOWS	SCHOOL STAFF
Attending in Person	Chris Haworth Michelle Navarre Sam Bottom Mike Davison Ian Roche Lacey Mizell	Michelle Navarre (**Board Ex Officio) John Lydon Elizabeth Whiting
Attending by Phone		
Unable to Attend	Ben Brenton Tina Yarovsky	

EXPECTED GUESTS & VISITORS
None

Chris Haworth, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

Opening Business/Open Session

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the August meeting were voted on via email, Chris Haworth moved to approve with Lauren Levine as a second and Ian Roche with a vote to approve.

Open Session for Public Comment

No one for public comment.

Officer Elections

Following are the nominations for officers for the 2022-23 school year.

A unanimous vote was taken to name all chair, co-chair and committee heads as follows.

- Tina Yarovsky – Chair
- Chris Haworth – Vice- Chair
- Lacey Mizell – Secretary
- Lauren Levine – Development Chair
- Mike Davison – Finance Chair
- Lacey Mizell – Governance Chair

State of the School *(John Lydon/ Michelle Navarre)*

Anne Smith was the recipient of the Klingenstein award this year. This prestigious award will be celebrated during the National EL conference December 7th – 9th.

Enrollment

20th day enrollment count is at 374 where the budget lands at 425 students. The following steps are being taken to increase enrollment. Direct mailers are being sent to the surrounding 5 zip codes for preschool. Polaris Book Fair events are being included in holiday food boxed and holiday book gift bags are being sent with information on Polaris.

Announcements

It has come to the attention of the school that a building within a few blocks of the school is potentially being re-zoned to accommodate a cannabis related business. CPS families and school staff alike have expressed concerns about this business and its proximity to Polaris. Polaris is working with local government and INCS to prohibit this business from being rezoned and approved.

Document Timeliness

Year to date timeliness is at 98% on time which exceeds expectations for CPS standards.

Hiring

Three new members of the Polaris team have been added. Damian Marshall, a physical education teacher and athletic director has been added. Jamela James, a para-professional and Trinity Allen, a full-time educational assistant has also joined the Polaris staff.

Notable

Mother Mondays and Father Fridays have been added to the Polaris events, parents are encouraged to participate in time on campus with their children.

Chicago Children's Choir Partnership: Polaris has joined with the organization to introduce Polaris students to global citizenship through music.

Light Leader Recommitment ceremony: Light Leader award recipients are encouraged to reevaluate their commitments and bring others in to challenge them to become Light Leaders.

EL Education National Conference

A Master Class will be led by Polaris Staff at this conference held in Chicago this year. Polaris staff will be leading several topics to include:

Wide range of Learners in Middle School Math through Differentiation of Whole-Class Structures

Surviving & Thriving: Mission-Driven Leadership and Innovation in the Post-Pandemic Era

The Power of Student Reflection in a Post-Pandemic World (Francesca Peck and Sarena

Expressions, Equations, and Illusions: Developing Deep Thinking in Young Math Learners through Problem-Solving

Making it Personal: Practices that Deepen Differentiation

Governance Committee Report

Future pipeline for board membership is imperative at this point, we have an ongoing proposal to U of Chicago seeking Junior Board Members and fellows. Please continue to monitor your networks and report back to Governance on people we should be working to recruit. Succession planning is an important part of our duties to the school and the health of the board.

Google classroom is built out and should be used for all documents to be listed in one accessible place for all committees and board packets once approved.

Bylaws were reviewed and there are no pressing issues; amendments will have to be made at some point in order to improve date accuracy and term limits.

Additional Action Items:

- All Board Members must complete their annual INCS training by 12/31/2022
- Future pipeline of the Board will remain an ongoing conversation

Development Committee Report

2023 fundraising target was \$355,000 where the actual budget was \$343,480.

Giving Crew Day raised \$11,520 to the \$20,000 fundraising goal.

End of year appeal is set at \$15,000 and major gifts are set at \$100,000.

Grants are at a \$15,000 goal with several grant opportunities available between now and mid to late October.

Spring benefit is slated to be held on May 11th or 18th at the moment.

At approximately 8:30 PM, Chris Haworth moved to adjourn the meeting; Lauren Levine seconded; all approved.