



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Board Members Present: Laura Blankfein, Adam Falkner, Mark Hall, Laurence Heilbronn, Randall Iserman, Michelle Murphy, Max Osse

Absent: Matthias Ederer

The Meeting was brought to order by Chair, Randall Iserman, at 6:06pm, and a quorum was found present.

- **Motion to approve January 2021 meeting minutes**
 - Postponed to February March 2021 trustee meeting
- **Finance Committee Report**
 - Budget has been updated since the budget we approved in the previous meeting
 - Focusing on YTD numbers not the December numbers
 - We are \$91K above budget
 - \$60K due to positive higher revenues than forecasted
 - \$18K due to expenses being lower
 - On revenue. 262 students. budgeted for 258
 - We have not used any of our COVID set-aside. (\$200K)
 - If/when students return to the building, we will need to pay for testing
 - We have not yet received CARES funding
- **Update from strategic planning committee**
 - Mostly focused on looking for possible schools with which to merge
 - To get further data points for the rest of strategic plan:
 - Board has been canvassed
 - Teachers have been canvassed
 - May canvas families
 - Working on Math curriculum issues
 - Next week, we will have a financial meeting to see where we are with that vis-a-vis the plan
 - Board will likely have a meeting to discuss
 - Pending a final decision on Feb 24, CSA is being recommended for SUNY Charter School Institute for a five year renewal
 - Because there's not as much data as SUNY would like to see, it's conditional on us putting together planning and specific conditions under which we'd be renewed, again, in five years



- CSA looking for school partners to build a pipeline into CSA
- Update on early merger discussions
 - Each charter would remain a separate school. The school would remain a free-standing school
 - Creating a relationship with a larger school, we would join forces to create opportunities for elementaries to join our school. But advantages in economies of scale for finances and operations
 - CSA would not lose autonomy
 - We'd create a core community
 - We'd have input on how those kids at the lower grades would be prepared for CSA
 - Merger would not preclude students from the outer boroughs, but we'd have a strong core of students who'd be coming into CSA
- **School Leadership Report**
 - Recruitment Update:
 - Net +1 headcount
 - Completed Media Kit to send to prospective families and schools
 - Creating a prospective family dashboard that shows everything CSA can offer
 - Targeting message at schools based on students we've already received from them, as well as their location
 - Recruiting blitz until Feb 22
 - Planning a morning meet and greet, where prospective parents meet teachers, staff, and current families
 - Had an info session with 12 families
 - We're a little behind where we want to be with new applicants
 - City-wide recruitment is hard. 43,000 families have left NYC
 - No real numbers yet about retention for 2021-2022
 - We'll start polling in 3-4 weeks
 - Student Progress update (MAP assessments; 2nd trimester)
 - We made students more invested in the test, itself
 - We increased the number of kids who took the test in every grade
 - Nationally it's been difficult to get students to take the test
 - 6th grade math - we increased scores. but below where we need to be
 - 7th grade -improved reading
 - Significant increase students with disabilities
 - 8th grade reading- close to our goal
 - Math increased both categories but not close to our goal
 - Overall, we've increased significantly since 2019. But not at our goal
 - Planning for trimester 3



- Possibility of opening week of Feb 22
- Getting kids reacclimated to being back in the classroom
- Planning for both hybrid and remote scenarios and ordering materials for each
- Many teachers have been vaccinated. Teachers who have not been vaccinated are being encouraged to do so; can't be kept out of school
- Question about 8th graders' high school placement
 - No answers yet. Admissions and testing dates have been pushed back
 - Some kids have been urged to take SHSAT
 - DR K is ensuring that art students have their arts portfolios ready
- Trimester 2 exams are the week of 3/15
- **At 7:05 there's a brief administrative session to maintain confidentiality**
- **Open session recommenced at 7:28pm**
- **Motion to adjourn February 2021 meeting at 7:28pm**
 - Trustee Blankfein motioned to adjourn, seconded by trustee Murphy
Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.