



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

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

Absent: Laurence Heilbronn

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

- **Motion to approve November 19, 2020 meeting minutes**
 - Trustee Blankfein motioned, trustee Falkner seconded
November meeting minutes approved by unanimous vote
- **Motion to add Peter Sack to the board of trustees**
 - Trustee Osse motioned, trustee Blankfein seconded
Petter Sack added to the board by unanimous vote
- **Financial committee presentation:**
 - Update on new CFO service provider
 - Headcount goal: 270 students for 2020-2021
 - Even with a headcount of 258 students, we'd still arrive of a net surplus of \$80K; offset by a higher number of special ed students; also aided by no expenses for food service
 - Current budget is based on headcount of 262.4
 - We still have a covid contingency plan of \$134K in the amended budget
 - If we don't use this contingency money, our surplus will increase, dollar-for-dollar
 - Discussion around state funding: Changes for Per pupil funding would need to be, legislatively
 - Approval of new budget
 - Trustee Murphy motioned, trustee Falkner seconded
New budget is approved by unanimous voice vote
- **Strategic planning Committee report:**
 - Consultant said the work the school leadership and board had done for school branding obviated a lot of questions
 - Facilities were a major sticking point; elevators, specifically
 - Admissions was the other issue: getting 6th graders who were all in a better place, academically



- We started to talk about merger with potential K-5 schools
 - School in Brooklyn. Sticking/stopping point: Logistics issues, lease
 - We're speaking with administrators at two of those schools in lower Manhattan
 - Conversations so far had been about fit
 - No talk about merger
 - These schools have excess space
 - It would enable us to move the 6th grade out and have fewer students in the same space. Which would help with overcrowding
 - Student, and faculty satisfaction and concerns have to be a part of decision process
 - We want to make sure that the other entities are interested in having an arts-based education
 - This could be a two year process
 - Could be completed in 2023 by the time the merger is Oked
- **School Leadership Report**
 - Since the remote program is successful, CSA shifting to reopening 3/22/21
 - Winter MAP testing 1/28 - 1/29/21
 - We're doing grouping to make sure that we're giving extra support to students with IEPs
 - In Advisory, teachers are explaining the importance of the tests so that students have more invested in their progress
 - Attendance progress and completion: % of seen students increased to 97.59%
 - No homework being assigned. There's double blocks of reading/writing in school. Students are completing their assignments in school
 - Started student support groups. Each adult is responsible for 2-3 students. And they communicate with parents
 - Attendance in small groups is now being taken
 - Composition of small groups is based on MAP scores
 - Willow and Desiree writing Responsive Classroom curriculum and Advisory
 - SUNY asked: How will we determine quantitatively if the school is successful? What are departmental goals?
 - Academic achievement goals: SUNY appreciated the goals
 - Create, Learn, Thrive works in a cycle
 - Create team: translating arts team to a remote model
 - Learn team: using data to inform decisions. using data to talk about academics and attendance. And to note when interventions are made
 - There wasn't as much professional development as much as Elisa wanted. She is having more of these, including differentiation



- Thrive has 2 components:
 - Advisory
 - A system where teachers can visit other teachers' Advisories
- Race and equity work: internal committee that would work together and they have conversations and meets regularly
 - The goal is to bring someone in to do this work with teachers
- Student Recruitment update
 - Enrollment, no losses since last meeting
 - Recruitment being led by Willow and Desiree
 - There's a media kit created with media and video
 - We're reaching out to parents who might be unhappy with their current schools and doing outreach to areas where we have clusters of families
 - Leveraging existing families
 - Half of enrolled students found out about CSA by word of mouth
- Staff PD update
- **At 6:58 there's a brief administrative session to maintain confidentiality**
- **Open session recommenced at 7:16pm**
- **Motion to adjourn January 2021 meeting At 7:17pm**
 - Trustee Sack motioned to adjourn, seconded by trustee EdererMeeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.