



Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Agenda

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

Absent: Matthias Ederer, Laurence Heilbronn

The Meeting was brought to order by Chair, Randall Iserman, at 6:03pm, and a quorum was found present.

- **Motion to approve March, 2021 meeting minutes**
 - Trustee Blankfein motioned, trustee Murphy seconded
- **Finance Committee Report**
 - February Monthly report
 - Preliminary 2021-22 budget issues
 - Per pupil, fed funding, enrollment, teacher pay
 - Above budget Feb by \$37K. Above in state and fed funding because we're above our budgeted headcount.
 - Expenses: outperforming because of terminations. Because of adding resources we may close some of those outperformance #s.
 - Proposing using the school's space for the summer. It will increase spend by \$20K. But it saves the hassle of moving out and it will be used for math enrichment.
 - This will go into budget for the Fall.
 - Covid testing cost: We do pool testing. \$360 or \$720 for the last three weeks.
 - We are yet to use our COVID reserve. But we may use it for testing.
 - Good things that are happening with per pupil funding. And additional money coming from the federal government. Per pupil funding is going to increase by about 4%. It appears that this will pass the state govt. This will allow us to lower our budget estimate.
 - 2-3 year special fund to be used to help mitigate instructional deficits, trauma to students and improving facilities and help teachers bounce back from remote learning.
- **Program committee**
 - SUNY renewal conditions



- Still working on language of parts of our accountability plan with conditions. We've settled on the academic conditions.
- This will be based on MAP testing. There's no confidence in state testing. We have to improve our proficiency.
 - Absolute measures.
 - Growth measures and
 - Gap closing measures.
 - The above are all for Math and ELA.
 - There are additional measures that have not yet been finalized:
 - Arts component.
 - We dropped the social-emotion component.
 - We'll be part of a pilot developing alternative ways to document and measure how students are growing in ways that are not simply academic scores and reflect more than just academic achievement. Panorama measurement:
 - Grit and Growth mindset.
 - High School admissions is another component. Instead of a percentage of kids getting into arts-based schools or independent schools; working on making sure students are matched to their ideal school. Make sure that each student is exposed to different options. (With a focus on arts high schools)
- **School Operations**
 - No dir of operations. Working with Adam (consultant) marshalling the efforts of current operations staff while doing our search.
 - Dir of Ops needs to be first/foremost a coach and leader of people and focused on getting the best out of them. Calling it Managing Director of Operations and we're creating a framework to promote accountability. There are 4 roles under the MDO:
 - Business Manager
 - Logistics Manager
 - Office Manager
 - Data/Information Manager
- **School Leader Report**
 - **Academic progress, end of year, recitals and performances**
 - **Summer programming**
 - **Recruitment/Enrollment**
 - No changes since last month. We're above our budgeted amount of 265.



- We were supposed to have the lottery this past Monday but because of the unknown nature of the year, and fewer applications in previous years, and to make it easier for families, we accepted everyone who applied.
- Did an excellent job of reaching out to current families to see who's returning. We're looking like an excellent retention rate especially in the rising 8th graded.
- In order to increase enrollment, we've instituted Zoom Application office hours. And trying to build a community of new families.
- 164 families have been offered, 25 have accepted but haven't started the paperwork.
 - 30 have started registration. 1 has completed. 4 people who applied after the 12th, we currently have them waitlisted but we'll extend offers to those 4.
- Hybrid learning:
 - There are Tuesday/Thursday, and Wednesday/Friday cohorts. Synchronous learning on Mondays.
 - Being strict about keeping students in their PODs and six feet apart.
 - Strict mask policy in school.
 - Community has been good about communicating with anyone who'd been exposed. There was a cohort that was shut down (kept home) as a result.
 - Hybrid learning in general has gone well. Things are functioning well in the building. Everyone is used to the expectations and all are happy to see one another.
 - Classifying Seen/Unseen students:
 - Unseen: not logged into zoom or completed assignments.
 - We've had excellent Seen percentages.
 - Seen percentages for the 8th grade has been trending downward.
- Sending out Promotion in Doubt letters.
 - Grade leads are meeting with these families on the 3rd and 7th of May so that they have 7 weeks to improve.
 - There's a question as to whether or not we should retain students. This is more of a way to express the serious concern. The warning will probably summer school for remediation.
 - Typically we send 25-28 letters. There were only 2 retained last year and they stayed.
- End of Year Testing. DOE has made them opt-in. There's no penalty if the students opt out.
- End of Year Performances:



- Vocal Recital May 27
- Musical Retrospective June 11
- Virtual Piano recital
- Digital Storytelling Night
- Music Tech Night
- Visual Art Slideshows (all grades)
- Theatre Night (monologues written by CSA Writers)
- Documentaries: what it was like for the new transition. In between the documentaries, there are commercials also created by students.
- End of year Part 3.
- Logistics bonanza - students coming in to take their 8th grade yearbook pictures.
- Cap decorating:
- Graduation: June 25 (June 26 is there's inclement weather) at PS 111
 - Two tickets per family
- **Executive Session**
- **New Business**
 - none
- **Motion to adjourn January 2021 meeting At 7:12pm**
 - Trustee Osse motioned to adjourn, seconded by trustee Falkner
 - Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.