



Board Meeting  
January 22, 2019

**Board Member Attendance**

<b><u>Present:</u></b> Michela English Tearsa Coates Arthur McKee Larry Nussdorf Jenny Abramson Carol Pensky Emily Lawson Brian Jones	<b><u>By Phone:</u></b> Valerie Rockefeller Judy Kovler Maura Marino	<b><u>Absent</u></b> Charis Drant Frenny Nixon
<b><u>Others Present:</u></b> Laura Maestas, Chief Executive Officer Kumasi Vines, Senior Director, Finance and Real Estate Dan Englender, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Finance Officer Ibby Jeppson, Chief Development Officer Suraj Patel, Chief Talent Officer Raymond Weeden, Senior Director, Policy and Community Engagement  Kearney Shanahan		

**New Board Member.** Michela welcomed Larry Nussdorf to the Board. Larry brings incredible business savvy, financial expertise, and experience on both for-profit and non-profit boards. DC Prep is very lucky to have him as its newest Board member.

**Calendar Updates.** The 2019 Back to School Bash will be held on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Kreeger Museum. Hadley Cooper and Collette Bruce, long time Bash supporters, will serve as co-chairs of the event. All Board members are encouraged to attend – and encourage others to come, too!

**Minutes.** Arthur moved that the minutes from the November Board meeting be approved; Carol seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Update on Anacostia Middle Campus (AMC).** Dan announced that we have a sub-lease for a two-year temporary space (July, 2020 – June, 2022) at the former Birney Elementary School, that has been reviewed and approved by the Real Estate and Finance Committee. We will be co-located with Excel Academy, a former charter school that is now run by DCPS. Rent for the first year will be \$350K which is \$100K above the per pupil allocation we will receive from city. The rent in Year Two is better aligned with the public money we will receive. Dan explained that space is at a premium because of the heavy demand and that it is increasingly unlikely that we will be able to remain at Birney beyond the 2-year lease period. As a result, we are continuing to search for options for our permanent site. Jenny suggested that we keep an eye on nearby parochial schools as enrollments are declining. Emily moved to approve the lease; Carol seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There is currently one internal candidate for the Founding Principal position at AMC. Interviews will be held in early February.

**Organizational Evolution.** Laura provided an update on the Org. Evolution process. She reminded Board that the overall mission has not changed but that we have adopted two new “graduate aims” for our students that align with our mission: College Bound Leaders and Learners for Life. The Org. Evolution work is designed to ensure that our program model supports those outcomes and is still relevant given changing demands from families and expectations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Laura described the four task forces that will make recommendations on ELA, Math, Student Support, and Student Learning Experience. These taskforce recommendations will be considered alongside our budget, with a goal of creating a proposal we can share with DC Prep staff, families and students over the summer and early fall. The Board will receive an additional update in the April meeting.

**Aftercare.** The management team updated the Board on the decision to outsource the aftercare program. In recent years, it has become evident that DC Prep cannot operate the aftercare program at the scale families request. Unfortunately, this becomes a barrier to families’ ability to enroll at DC Prep. To eliminate this enrollment barrier, DC Prep has contracted with Champions to provide aftercare beginning in SY19-20. Champions will be able to operate the program at a larger scale (i.e., no “caps” on the number of students they can support) and with more flexible enrollment options (e.g., partial week options). While the cost will go up, costs will remain in line with what other aftercare programs charge, and Champions will continue to accept payment vouchers.

**Talent.** Suraj described our efforts to create an employee value proposition that will attract and retain great teachers. While teacher surveys have consistently indicated that salaries are not the most important factor in whether a teacher chooses to work for us or remain at DC Prep over time, we feel strongly that our teachers should be paid competitively. We are currently working to identify options to increase teacher compensation in the coming years.

**Policy/Advocacy.** Raymond described the importance of advocating for funding equity for charters, as well as for an increase in the annual per pupil payment, and in the at-risk weight. From a funding equity standpoint, charters end up having less money to invest in students because of the need to procure our own facilities (increasingly difficult in DC’s high-cost real

estate market) and pay all related costs (vs DCPS, which can rely on the Dept. of Government Services, to pay the cost of facilities repair and maintenance), and to fund the cost of retirement savings directly out UPSFF allocations (not a cost DCPS incurs). This results in charter students receiving less funding, simply because they attend a public charter school instead of a district school. Raymond also described the gun violence issues plaguing Ward 8 in the near vicinity of our Anacostia Elementary Campus.

The Board went into executive session at 7:15.