

BRIDGES PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2019, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Attendance:

- Chip Warner
- Leslie Annexstein
- Georgia Vergos
- Olivia Smith
- Kaye Elaster
- Hassan Dhouti
- Woody Scott
- Rikki Taylor
- Marissa Morabito-Reilly
- Lindsay Northup-Moore
- Tracy Clarke

Director's Report

Charter Renewal Update

Olivia discussed the May 1st charter renewal discussion. Additional data is needed from Bridges scores in August to determine next steps for the school.

Enrollment

Bridges planned enrollment is 428 students. Enrollment is currently 408 with new and returning students. Efforts will continue until October 25 2019. Current levels are:

- 2nd grade – under-enrolled by 2 students
- 3rd grad – 16 students needed
- 4th grade –
- 5th grade – 14 students needed

Olivia discussed some of the challenges of enrollment- for example, families that temporarily homeless. She discussed Individual Family Service Plans-IFSPs, which families keep to get social services. These assist in the attainment of IEPs.

Enrollment

Enrollment has stabilized and Brides is projecting that we will make numbers. 428 students are budgeted to stabilize finances (Lease coverage rate/pay the rent). Bridges is slated to make the number currently.

Staffing

Bridges has some challenges with staffing for the 2019 - 2020 school year. Bridges currently can only offer lower salary band than other charter schools and DC Public Schools. School management is working on the staffing plan. Staffing is nearly finished.

Bridges has 27 classrooms with 9 lead teachers not returning

22 staff (including 6 lead teachers) are on tardy plans

Bridges will require:

- 9 new teachers
- 1 special education teacher for co-teaching
- 2 classroom assistants
- 15 dedicated aides

Question: Tracy (a parent representative) asked how many teachers turned over last year and noted that attrition is a serious concern for parents)

Olivia addressed the issue and noted that she did not have all of the data at the time of discussion, but noted that not all turn-over is related to teachers leaving. There will be internal shifting of resources. Some teachers are not being invited back.

Family Engagement

Bridges is working to reach out to families to help them understand interventions and work that Bridges is doing. Examples include reading interventions staff for reading moving from 2 to 3 and math interventions from 0 to 1.

Graduation

Graduation will be on June 13th and be from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. Bridges is open for a speaker with the theme “Looking to the Future”

Legal Case

May 1st, 2018 the Insurance company lawyer representing Bridges received notice from the court denying Bridge’s request for summary judgement. The judge noted that he did not find strong merits in parts of the case, despite not dismissing the matter.

Bridges is moving to mediation (returning to mediation). If not successful in mediation, Pillsbury will be present to represent Bridges at the mediation. The lawyers for the case will submit a proposal for expert witness discovery to the court. This can take 3-4 months.

Discussion Highlights

Teaching Approach - Olivia discussed changes of how Bridges will redefine its Teaching Approach and how Co-teachers and Assisting Teachers work together in grades 1-5.

Financial Management - Cash on hand is good. COH will last 119 days. The PCSB suggests 45 days minimum and EdOps, the educational consultants, suggests 90 days on hand.

There is a proposal to invest in federally insured, laddered CDs to take advantage of the significant cash on hand. The financial committee is proposing to allow EdOps the opportunity to provide this service for Bridges. It brings the potential to make \$20,000 - \$30,000 with no risk of losing principal.

- A motion was made and approved to retain EdOps to undertake these treasury services
- Changes were made to update the Finance Policies and Procedures document – there were requirements for equipment management that come along for recipients of federal grants
 - Motion was made and approved.

Governance- Chip discussed Olivia's evaluation and the process to work on it. Upcoming changes to the Board were also discussed. Chip will be stepping down and Woody would be assuming leadership (motioned, voted, and approved). Hassan noted his willingness to continue as Secretary, but also a willingness to share the duty.

Options for opening meetings and increasing transparency were discussed, as well.

Budget – Approval

A motion to approve the budget was made and seconded

Consent Agenda: Meeting Minutes – Approval

The Board made a motion to approve and accept the previous meeting minutes.