

Briya Public Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 10, 2019, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
APPROVED September 11, 2019

Briya's mission is to strengthen families through culturally responsive two-generation education.

Board Members Present

Doris Garay, *Vice Chair*
Flor Buruca, *Secretary*
Janessa Cobb
Marc Griego
Yizel Romero
Alejandra Sandoval
Todd Shears
Deborah Spitz

Staff Members Present

Christie McKay, *Executive Director*
Lorie Preheim, *Outreach & Adult Education
Strategy Director*
Bill Bletzinger, *Director of Finance*
Ashley Simpson-Baird, *Research and Policy*
Emma Koop Liechty, *Board Liaison*

Board Members Absent

Daniela Grigioni-Carozza, *Chair*
Nick Sheth, *Treasurer*
Whytni Kernodle

1. Call to Order/Centering
 - The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm.
 - Deb led the centering time and shared about her family's immigrant history, reflected on the current state of the US's immigration system, and shared that she often thinks about the good work that Briya is doing.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - **Deborah Spitz moved to approve the minutes from the May 15th, 2019 board meeting; Yizel Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. Director's Report
 - Changing leadership for the charter school community in DC
 - Christie shared that there have been several changes in the DC charter school community recently, including at DC PCSB and FOCUS.
 - Bancroft/Sharpe – Move and PCSB
 - Briya has moved out of Bancroft Elementary School and all our possessions have been moved into Sharpe. Some renovations and painting still need to be done. Things are going well with the remodeling. DCPS is working on the heating/cooling systems. Christie is hoping that Briya staff can start working in the building at the end of July. Christie is meeting with the principal of West Middle School, the school that will be sharing the building, on July 11th.
 - Urban Institute – July 17 – Pay for Success model for the social determinates of health
 - There will be a meeting on July 17th for Mary's Center and Briya about the Pay for Success model.
 - Ashley shared about the opportunity that Briya and Mary's Center have to potentially work with the Urban Institute on some research about the link between Mary's Center and Briya and our participants' success. The research has the potential to be paid for by a Pay for Success program.

- Christie shared with the board about some grant funding that Briya is or potentially is receiving.
 - Kresge has granted Briya and Mary's Center \$500,000 over two years for the two organizations. Briya and Mary's Center applied together and were chosen as a recipient for this grant.
 - There is a possible grant from Kellogg. Briya is currently completing a two-year grant with Kellogg and we are waiting to see if we will continue to receive funding from them.
 - National Center for Families Learning & Toyota have granted \$300,000 over two to three years to Briya to fund our Two-Generation Program with student leadership.
 - Marriott has granted Briya \$150,000 for a year to fund our CDA and Early Childhood programs.
 - We are working on writing a Letter of Interest to the Philip Graham Fund for some funding for our IT department or for the potential Dental Assistant Program.
- Strategic Planning
 - A draft of the new strategic plan is ready. It will now go to development committee for revision. It will then be brought forward to the board for a vote. Christie invited any board members who are not on the development committee to be a part of the revision process. They are welcome to attend the August development committee meeting.

4. Development Committee

- DC PCSB Transparency Summary
 - Ashley gave the board an overview of the new policy that DC PCSB has put out, as well as three bills that the city council has proposed regarding transparency. The bills have parts that are specific to charters, but also to relate to traditional public schools.
 - Ashley included some articles and an analysis from FOCUS
 - PCSB created a new transparency policy. Briya has this information ready, but is going to wait to publish it until we have guidance from PCSB. This policy is still working its way through the city council.
- Yizel, Bill and Christie went to the PCSB meeting to talk about our move to Sharpe
- Open Meetings
 - Christie shared that the Development committee has decided that the January and July board meetings will be open to the public to be in compliance with the new DC PCSB transparency policy.
 - Deb suggested that we make sure to request the people let the board chair know in advance if they plan to attend those meetings, so the meeting can be moved to a larger room, if need be.
- 30th anniversary update
 - We have already saved the date for a November 15 30th Anniversary event, but Kresge is having an event for our grant that day that Christie has to attend, so we might move it to November 8th, 12th or 13th. We will talk more about this event at the next development committee meeting.
- Board Member Candidates
 - The Development Committee has a new board member candidate, Darryl Clay, but we don't have his official application yet. He has worked in DCPS and at Friendship PCS. He also has work history with the Center for Education Reform, was the finance director at the National Presbyterian Church, and worked at All Souls Church in DC. He is a DC resident.

5. Finance Committee

- May 2019 financial statement review and forecast for year end
 - Bill reviewed the May financials and explained that the finances are on track. We will be ahead of where we originally figured we would be.
 - Briya gave around \$300,000 in end-of-year bonuses to staff, which hadn't been budgeted, but there was enough room in the budget.
- Policy change for federal grant procedures to be in compliance
 - There is a change in policy about how we report the spending of federal grants.
 - **Janessa Cobb moved to approve the proposed policy change in Briya's Federal Grant Procedure; Deborah Spitz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Committee objectives for FY19 review
 - The finance committee has their drafted goals for the next school year.
 - Support and orient new director of finance
 - Review provided benefits in compensation
 - Access facilities

6. Academic Committee

- Board Performance Review
 - The academic committee gave an overview of the results from the board performance review survey that was sent out before this meeting. Overall, the board gave positive feedback regarding the board's performance.
 - Some people expressed that they weren't exactly sure how to answer some questions. Doris wondered how we might be able to rephrase the questions to make sure that the questionnaire is as clear as possible. There will be more board members joining in the future, so we want to make it clear for them.
 - Doris said the overview of the survey should be submitted to Daniela. Daniela can then reach out to individual members about their responses and any concerns that they might have.
 - Deb said that if anyone had suggestions on how to use the information from the survey, it would be appreciated.
 - Emma will resend the survey if anyone wants to make edits to their responses.
- Succession Planning Questionnaire
 - The academic committee gave the board the opportunity to read the school leader and board chair questionnaire that will be included in the final version of the succession plan.
- School Leader Performance Review committee
 - The School Leader Performance Review committee will need to meet before the September board meeting. The committee should have one person from each committee. If your committee has a volunteer or a nominee, please let Lorie know.
 - Academic Committee - Doris
 - Finance Committee – Todd
 - Development Committee – Christie nominated Whytni

7. Announcements/New Business

- Calendar invites for 2019-2020 board meetings
 - Emma will send out calendar invites for the meetings for the coming school year.
- Centering sign-up for 2019-2020 board meetings
 - Staff signed up to lead the centering time for the meetings over coming year.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.