



The Next Step (El Próxmo Paso) Public Charter School | April 8, 2020

ATTENDANCE (☒ if present, ☐ if absent)

Board Members:

- ☒ John Ingold (Chair)
- ☒ Steve Cartwright (Vice Chair)
- ☒ Shawn Richardson (Secretary)
- ☒ Melissa McKnight
- ☒ Kim R Ford
- ☒ Blanche Roblero
- ☐ Misael Berrios (Student Rep)
- ☒ Housnatou Vologuem (Student Rep)
- ☒ Sahira Fernandez (Staff Rep)
- ☒ Michael Cuellar (Staff Rep)

Staff:

- ☒ Jonathan Mathis (Executive Director)
- ☒ Taunya Melvin
- ☒ Brandi Shelton
- ☒ Juan Carlos Martinez
- ☒ Oscar Ramirez
- ☒ Auturo Martinez
- ☒ Beth Quintana-Manrique

MEETING MINUTES

Chair John Ingold started the meeting with a quorum at 7:03pm ET.

Welcome, Opening Remarks, Approval of Minutes from March Board Retreat

- Motion to Approve: Shawn
- Second: Michael
- Outcome: Approved

Board Officer Vote

- The Board voted to approve Housnatou Vologuem as student representative to serve on the board.
 - Motion to Approve: Kim
 - Second: Sahira
 - Outcome: Approved

COVID-19 Impact and Response

- Jonathan thanked the management staff for their unwavering commitment over the past few weeks as TNS moved to remote learning due to COVID-19.
- TNS and DC schools will not open on April 27th as previously reported by the Mayor. It is unknown when schools will reopen.
- Jonathan and Taunya attends daily PCSB calls for updates. It was mandated that all schools provide students with laptops and internet access.
- DC government is expecting a \$6 million shortfall and is advising schools to prepare contingency budgets.
- Beth provided an update on student learning experience/outcomes highlighting those who are highly engaged and those who are not engaged and might be facing hardships. Teachers are also adjusting to remote teaching and are resourceful with e-learning tools.
- Brandi provided an update on student support services and challenges being faced including food distribution and supply challenges due to increased demands and student hardship.
- Staff was able to secure a grant from the DC Education Equity Foundation. In addition, a community donor under the Greater Washington Community Foundation is willing to establish a longstanding fund for TNS.
- Taunya provided the cost of purchasing additional laptops and internet hotspots to comply with the mandate. It was asked of the Board to authorize reserve funds to purchase the necessary technology.

Board Vote – Authorize TNS staff to use \$50,000 from the reserve fund to purchase laptops.

- Motion to Approve: Melissa
- Second: Sahira
- Outcome: Approved

Board Vote – Authorize email voting for additional funds from the reserves for hotspots.

- Motion to Approve: Kim
- Second: Steve
- Outcome: Approved

Stimulus Package Implications for Schools

- Blanchi provided an overview of the education provisions included in the various COVID-19 legislative relief packages. The CARES ACT includes a significant amount for education. The bill provides funding to states, local educational agencies (LEAs) and institutions of higher education (IHEs).

Updated Budget Proposal

- Jonathan provided an update on the revised budget. With the uncertainty for FY 2021, an adjusted budget was prepared. The budget included zero increase, reallocation of professional development, shifting of expenses and removal of unforeseen expenses.
- The budget will be up for Board approval at the May 13th Board meeting/call. A call will be scheduled to review the budget ahead of the May 13th meeting.

Update on Public Hearing about Additional Space

- TNS staff has been in communications with PCSB to answer their questions. Public comment will take place on April 20th (virtual meeting) as well as public vote on the amendment.

ED Review Cycle Update

- Steve provided an update on the ED performance evaluation process. The Executive Committee will be meeting with Jonathan to discuss his review.

Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn: Shawn
- Second: Melissa
- Outcome: Approved

The meeting adjourned at 8:57pm