



## **Board of Directors Meeting**

DC Bilingual Public Charter School  
33 Riggs Road, NE Washington, DC  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
8:30AM

### **Board Members**

**Present:** A. Abbas, D. Gershowitz, I. Juarez, R. Lambert, L. Parris, N. Ramey, A. Suarez

**Participating Remotely:** B. F. Guillen-Woods, A. Lemon-Strauss, C. Peyton, S. Redd, D. Z. Shaw, M. Taddese

**Absent:** None

### **School Leadership:**

- Alexandra Alderman – Director of Development
- Daniela Anello – Head of School
- John Breyer – Chief Financial Officer
- Eleni McCabe – Principal, PK-2
- Rohini Ramnath – Resident Principal, 3-5
- Alina Thouyaret – Academic Consultant

### **Guests:**

- Brad Olander, EdOps
- Lester Matlock, previous Board Chair
- Susie Rosenbaum, previous Board Chair

N. Ramey called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

N. Ramey welcomed new Board members Iris Juarez and Ahmar Abbas to the Board.

**BOARD VOTE:** N. Ramey moved to approve the January meeting minutes, R. Lambert seconded, and the Board approved unanimously.

### **1. Head of School Report**

D. Anello discussed the process of engaging staff about school budgeting and a survey that seeks to learn what the most important benefits are to staff. D. Anello previewed the upcoming college and career day and invited Board members to participate and share their journeys.

## **2. Growth Committee**

D. Anello opened the conversation by recognizing that DCB has grown before, and in very challenging circumstances. In 2015 we added over 100 students (and moved buildings) when the opportunity came up to move from Centronia to our current facility. The school is now in a stronger position and much better prepared for growth.

D. Anello outlined the reasons for growth, centered on the school's success at serving at risk students and an interest in serving more students who need support. She also walked through the strong demand and long waitlist. The Board asked questions about ensuring new seats for at risk students and D. Anello's involvement in several initiatives and work streams on this concern.

The Board reviewed the adopted Greenlighting plan for growth and noted that all indicators have been met.

D. Anello presented on the steps taken so far to prepare for growth and the extensive work that has been done with the growth committee, school staff, PTA, and parents. B. F. Guillen-Woods walked the Board through the results of the parent and staff surveys on support for growth, which show a strong majority of each supporting growth.

R. Ramnath walked through the plans for how class counts and enrollment would change by grade by year for the next eight years until we reach full growth of 712 total students as well as the by grade by year enrollment if the school does not grow. The Board asked questions about how enrollment will impact the DCI feeder pattern for DCB.

A. Thouyaret walked through the programmatic planning for growth, including staffing, academic operations, and teacher support. The Board asked several questions about alternate models, staffing, financial feasibility, and ensuring consistency with the school's mission and sustainability.

E. McCabe presented on the proposals for how scheduling, play time/space, specials, and lunch will work in a growth environment. She included the plans to increase outdoor play space and ensure a significant addition in indoor play space.

A. Suarez introduced the financial components of the growth plan and noted all of the work that has gone into this from the Finance Committee, DCB Staff, and EdOps. B. Olander and J. Breyer walked through the financial model and where there continue to be variables and risks. Many of these variables and risks (and certainly any of the financially significant ones) will be addressed before we start construction on the project. The Board will have an additional vote before we commit to a specific funding package and final terms.



B. Olander pointed out that the school will need to raise money to cover the time during growth before we get to the full student count. J. Breyer discussed the timeline going forward, including the process with DGS, DCRA, and Commission on Fine Arts.

D. Anello presented an update on the development plan, including our strong success to date under A. Alderman's leadership. She also discussed next steps and additional opportunities for the remainder of the school year. The Board had a discussion about the need for additional funding, financial commitments, and financial sustainability of committing to growth.

As the presentations wrapped up, several Board members commented on how special the school is and how important it is that more students are able to take advantage of what the school offers, their personal journey to the Board, their concerns around fundraising, and the professionalism and readiness of the staff and thoroughness of the overall presentation. There was also discussion of the history of the school and how much has been accomplished.

**BOARD VOTE:** "The Board approves growth, contingent on a financing plan from school leadership that includes a capital contribution consistent with the financial model, DC building approval, and PCSB enrollment approval." N. Ramey called for questions and a vote; A. Suarez seconded; Board voted unanimous consent with C. Peyton abstaining.

**BOARD VOTE:** "The Board approves moving forward with applying for permits with DC and applying for an enrollment ceiling increase with PCSB." N. Ramey called for questions and a vote; A. Suarez seconded; Board voted unanimous consent.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:47am