

Thurgood Marshall Academy Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
18 March 2020
By Teleconference

Trustees in Attendance: Jonathan Stoel (Chair); Danielle Bierzynski; Jerome Epstein; Regina Foshee; Dan Gordon; Mark Harrison; Kenneth Jones; Andrew Rosenberg; Kia Burnett; and Laurence Telson.

Trustees Absent: Bruce Berman and Richard Roe (joined at end of call)

Also in Attendance: Raymond Weeden (Executive Director); David Schlossman (COO).

Mr. Stoel called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

He explained that the agenda included review of COVID-19 closure, graduation waivers, and restatement of the school's pension plan.

Mr. Stoel asked Mr. Weeden to provide a brief overview of the school's response to the city-wide school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Weeden first expressed confidence that the school community had transitioned to remote learning as effectively as possible during the emergency. He detailed that the school leadership and staff addressed two issues between learning of closure on/about Thursday, March 12, 2020, and closure Monday, March 16. First, the school ensured that every student received some form of instructional work on Friday, March 13. Second, the school surveyed all students' IT needs and issued Chromebooks to students lacking computers at home. The school is also working to ensure students have Internet connectivity, primarily by prompting enrollment in the low-cost Comcast Xfinity Internet Essentials program. Finally, the school is a food-service site at which any DC youth under the age of 18 can pick up meals.

Mr. Stoel opened the floor to Q&A regarding the COVID-19 closure.

Mr. Harrison asked about the requirements for reporting cases and the impact on next year's budget. Mr. Weeden replied that any reporting of confirmed cases would come to the school from a health department; that is, while the school will be careful in its communication with stakeholders, it should not be in the position of assessing or reporting cases.

Ms. Telson inquired about the impact of a long-duration closure on graduation and college acceptance. Mr. Weeden noted that Thurgood Marshall Academy's college counseling team is well connected with college support organization boards and likely to have advance insight that may help mitigate challenges. He also plans to work at the appropriate moment with the Academics and Student Affairs teams to assess the impact of the closure on graduation ceremonies.

Mr. Gordon asked about the impact on SAT and AP. Mr. Weeden noted that some SAT scores were in hand, and that other planning would proceed as the length of closure clarified and the city and testing agencies provided guidance.

Mr. Stoel thanked Mr. Weeden and the entire school team for their efforts under extraordinary circumstances.

The Board then discussed some financial and logistical impacts of the pandemic. The school's gala cannot be held at Hogan Lovells (which had been slated to provide a low-cost venue), as the firm has canceled gatherings through April. The Development Committee is working with school staff to assess

scheduling and options. Mr. Stoel asked Mr. Jones for comments on the financial impact of the crisis, and Mr. Jones replied that it is reasonable to expect new costs associated with closure; he plans to coordinate review with the COO and the Finance Committee.

Moving from closure discussion to miscellaneous business, Mr. Stoel introduced two action items: graduation waivers and restatement of the school's retirement plan.

The Board considered graduation waivers for two students whose placements prevent meeting certain requirements, such as community service. The Trustees discussed the matter. A motion to grant the waivers to graduation requirements for the students was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stoel introduced restatement of the school's 403(b) retirement plan, the Thurgood Marshall Academy Pension Plan. Mr. Schlossman explained that the restatement was prompted by the Third Party Administrator that administers plan compliance for the school. The restatement is required by IRS and does not alter substantially alter plan provisions. The Trustees discussed the matter. A motion to restate the 403(b) retirement plan was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stoel proposed that the Board hold an informal touch-base call periodically through the COVID-19 closure, and the Trustees scheduled the call for each Wednesday at 2 pm.

Mr. Stoel thanked everyone for their efforts. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.