



The Children's Guild DC Charter School Board

Date: Monday, February 17, 2020
Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Place: 2146 24th Pl NE, Washington, DC 20018

MINUTES

Attendees

Imani Samuels (Board Chair)
Dana Baughns
Melody Giles
Cleopatra Green-Clarke
Leslie Nesmith
John Ferguson

Staff

Dr. Tanna Jackson
Bryan Daniels
Dr. Duane Arbogast
Brett Stidham
Kathy Lane
Josh Sutherland
Brandon Turner
Jenny Livelli
Kimberly Neal

Call to order

Ms. Samuels called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm. Due to the lack of a quorum no vote will be taken until other Board members arrive.

No public comment

Discussion

Ms. Samuels stated that we will table any items needing a vote until we have a quorum. The board has requested information (behavioral, SPED, staff and student attendance, academic performance), which will be the guide for discussion and to understand the state of the school after the change in leadership.

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval Tabled

Principal Report – Mr. Daniels (*Documentation Attached*)

Staffing and Transition - TCGDC transition has been continuous with the departure of Mrs. Nicholson (Chief Academic Officer) and Ms. Hopkins (Math Instructional Coach). In reassembling the staff for the New Year, the leadership team came together to decide how this information would be conveyed. Once this was decided we were able to bring all of this to the staff as a whole with a projection of what the next couple of months should look like and how we were to operate. A letter was sent home for the families and the children were notified in school. The parent response was not as expected because it was thought there would be a rise in parental concern but there were more questions from children than adults. The climate and community continue to stabilize.

Action Item - The staffing survey has not been completed but will be done in May, along with a snapshot survey for data to be given now. A suggestion was made to create a google doc if found that the company that creates the survey cannot fill the request.

The current state of the climate within the student population has remained level with behavioral support given as needed. The school administrators have found that the rise in the student's behavior issues is due to outside concerns more than within the school. As a school, all issues and concerns are addressed student by student, keeping close communication with the families around circumstances happening within the school.

I-Ready Data - Students have been making improvements and gains, specifically with the interim assessments and interventions. The standards of mastery and the diagnostics will ask the students questions based on the grade level and capture current benchmarks. The student testing has been accurately collected through I-ready for student progression and if there are any areas of need. There are multiple areas of testing along the way prior to testing for PARRC which do cause the students to be tested out.

Special Education Data – Dr. Tanna Jackson *(See Attached)*

The data collected was based on how the levels function and flow, which is ever changing. The levels within the Special Education Department are one through four. The level determines if students are in a less restrictive environment but with the assistance of a TBA (Therapeutic Behavior Aide) or if they are placed in a self-contained class with other peers and the related services provided within. In terms of classroom staffing, we are providing required services to all of the students including the use of contractors to fulfill those hours required and fill positions that are vacant. There is one Speech and Language therapist and the others are contracted. We currently have 14 –Therapeutic Behavior Aides, 1.6 – Occupational Therapy, .2 - Physical Therapy, and 1- Evaluation Tester, that are being filled through Align Staffing temp agency which is costly. The school is working towards bringing the temporary employees on as permanent staff. The SPED department has been working strategically and transitioning students into less restrictive environments if deemed eligible.

Mr. Ferguson asked if the school can retain the Evaluation Tester, Ms. Lauren Reynolds. This will be revisited at the next board meeting.

School Climate and Needs

Mr. Daniels spoke on space for events, such as productions, prom and graduation. The school has built a partnership with the community center next door for use for upcoming events. The school no longer has the contract with the garage behind us due to the building being bought and the new owner wanting to overcharge for the usage. This required us to get the ANC Commissioner involved. The school has also submitted a new RFP for bus transportation due to the lack of consistency on the buses with drivers and aides communicating information to the staff which has caused students to transition to new schools.

There have also been some changes within The Children's Guild as the Educational Management Organization with the departure of Steve Howe, Human Resources Director and Josh Sutherland, Chief Financial Officer.

Meeting Adjourn – Ms. Samuels