



Board Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Creative Minds International Public Charter School (the “School”) was held on March 23, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

The meeting was held over Zoom, given Coronavirus restrictions. The following Board Members participated: Dionne Tyus Garvin, Dr. Lynn Jennings, Jeanelle Johnson, Ornella Napolitano, Navin Nayak, Prita Patel, Matt Walker, Jennifer Wallace, Dr. Val Wise. Dr. Neal Brown was absent with notification.

Also participating from CMI school leadership: Chuck Jackson, Interim ED and ex-officio board member; Craig Bednarovsky, COO; Nayamka Long, CAO.

Also attending—Katie Rouse and Lauren Miller from Bellwether.

1. Opening Items

- The February 2020 Board Meeting Minutes were presented for consideration. The Board voted unanimously to approve the February 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.
- Val acknowledged that after an extensive search and rigorous process, Chuck received and accepted an offer from the board to become the permanent executive director of CMI. Congrats to Chuck.

2. Committee Updates

Each committee provided a description of its work and an overall update:

- Strategic Planning
 - Dionne and Chuck gave a brief overview of strategic planning work and presented a draft strategic plan.
 - Lauren and Katie from Bellwether provided more strategic planning context.
 - Discussion of how arts will be integrated into strategic goals.
 - Full art-infused curriculum in place during year three.
 - Art instruction is not going away between now and year three, but more time is needed to do arts really well in the future, and fully integrate arts into the academic curriculum to reflect CMI’s vision.
 - Still figuring out how to measure each goal via a dashboard, with transparency.
 - Extending Bellwether contract to continue work on strategic planning.
- AEC: Update from Lynn—no meeting, need to regroup.
- Finance: Update from Ornella
 - Days of cash are 65, above goal of 60.

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- Rent credit agreement worked out with AFRH
- \$2.4m in cash at end of year
- All positive
- Committee reviewed preliminary budget for next year
- Margaret joining Finance discussions around fundraising goals; working to clean up process and look for short and long term sources.
- Governance: Update from Matt
 - Described plan to solicit applications to middle school parents (including rising middle school students in April with goal of selection new parent before SY2020-21
 - We have a recommendation for a new trustee with finance background to help Finance Committee, initial meeting set for later this week
 - Goal for three new trustees to be in place before start of next school year
 - Will administer a Board evaluation survey, where we self-evaluate and also get input/feedback from the leadership team of the school, in April— hopefully in time to have results ready for our board retreat in May
- REDI: Update from Lynn—on hold for now, since REDI work is wrapped into strategic planning process, so no separate “REDI Committee” work is happening.
- **Report from Interim Executive Director**
 - Contingency planning due to Coronavirus started a month ago, as soon as the crisis began to become serious.
 - Continued focus on staff retention.
 - All staff getting full pay during closure.
 - Being thoughtful to staff who need to take care of their own families.
 - Distance learning in place, with clear standards and expectations.
 - Gave out Chrome books, still working with families without access to internet.
 - Great food drive led by CFA; “Gofundme” campaign also happening. Figuring out distribution.
 - School leadership attending daily meetings over Zoom with DCPS, DC Deputy Mayor for Education
 - Student recruitment still on track overall, lottery results to be released on schedule.
 - Special focus on meeting educational needs of students with IEPs.
- **Board votes unanimously to accept all reports as given.**
- **Board thanks Prita Patel for her service, on the occasion of her final official board meeting.**
- **There being no further business to be transacted, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Matt Walker

