

Meeting of the Board of Trustees
November 7, 2019
Thurgood Marshall Academy PCHS Library
2427 Martin Luther King, Jr Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020

Board Members in Attendance: Ken Jones (phone), Mark Harrison (phone), Rick Roe (phone), Jerome Epstein, Jonathan Stoel, Regina Foshee, Bruce Berman, Dan Gordon

Staff Members in attendance: Raymond Weeden, Executive Director; David Schlossman, Chief Operating Officer; Giselle Pole, Director of Development

Mr. Stoel called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Weeden gave the executive director's report. The DCPCSB's School Quality Report for 2019 has been released, and Thurgood Marshall Academy is rated a Tier 1 school with 76.8 points. The school's leadership team is reviewing data linked to key metrics in the report to find opportunities to improve for next year. One of the areas being targeted is the 9th grade on track rate. Student accountability and working with teachers on "reteach-relearn" strategies as well as creating a better balance between homework and assessments.

Thurgood Marshall Academy was named a BOLD performance school for the second year. The award is given to schools with high numbers of at-risk students who are performing academically better than the school's predicted rate of success.

Moving to work by the College Access Team, there were five student college acceptances as of October 31st. More than 60% of seniors have submitted at least one college application.

In Admissions, student enrollment, made official by the October 5 child-count, is at 385 students. In staffing updates, there is one vacancy in SPED for English, and one new hire in the Communications Department.

Lastly, the school is participating in three studies: one centered around student discipline with OSSE; one focused on staff compensation with EdFuel; and one involving staff promotion with regard to diversity and inclusion policies with DEI.

Mr. Weeden opened the floor for questions and discussions. Board members asked for additional information about the enrollment figures. Trustees then discussed Special Education resources and the role of the school's college counseling team in helping students find good fit colleges.

Mr. Gordon gave the report for the Education Mission Committee, which met prior to the board meeting. In addition to reviewing the school quality report, the committee reviewed the internal school-wide goals quarterly tracking sheet and provided feedback to leadership on how to track

certain data points and make them more accessible and shareable. Areas of note include graduation metrics, including FAFSA completion and SAT scores.

In reviewing the school's 9th grade on track data, strategies include students remaining after school on half days to complete missing work. On the first half day, for example, 27% of 9th graders and 51% of 10th graders with missing assignments completed their work after school.

Finally, TMA academic leadership is reviewing grading policies in comparison with those of similar high schools.

Next, Mr. Epstein gave an update on behalf of the Governance Committee. The Committee will coordinate with Mr. Weeden to assess Board composition. In the meantime, Board members are encouraged to remain active in the TMA community, and to continue identifying potential Board candidates.

Mr. Rosenberg and Ms. Pole provided the report of the Development Committee. As of November 1, fundraising revenue is at 49% of goal, with the majority of funds from federal grants. The annual appeal will be mailed to individual donors the week of December 8. Several grant proposals to private foundations are pending, and research on additional foundations will continue through the end of December. Planning for the 2020 Shining Star Gala is underway, with the tentative location to be held off-site at one of the school's law firm partners. More information will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Jones introduced and Mr. Schlossman presented the audit and finance committee report.

Mr. Schlossman began with general items, noting that due diligence procurement reports appear in Board materials. He noted also that the audit of the year-ended June 30, 2019, is progressing and will be submitted to the DCPCSB prior to the early-December deadline.

Moving to first quarter data for FY20, Mr. Schlossman reported the school is performing well in comparison to the budget, and is well positioned to meet its fiscal targets. Factors contributing to financial stability include a strong starting-cash position, higher than budgeted per-pupil funding, and higher than projected Special Education enrollment. In addition, expenses remain in line with the budget.

Mr. Schlossman concluded with a review of the school's current financial position and an explanation of the school's financial targets. When planning for FY20, management and the board set several targets: (i) a Change in Net Assets Margin within DCPCSB standards, (ii) saving roughly 2.25% of annual revenue for future needs, particularly long-term facility rehabilitation, and (iii) maintaining Days of Cash on hand well above DCPCSB standards. FY2019-20 quarter one actuals show the school on target to meet or exceed the targets for the fiscal year. The next steps will be to balance current and long-term fiscal needs, and to plan for effective management of cash over the long-term, both topics best undertaken as part of the board's comprehensive strategic planning process.

The meeting moved into executive session at 9:45am and adjourned thereafter.