

March 18, 2020 | 8:30 am via GoToMeeting

Board members present: Lydia Adelfio, John Duncan, Jerenze Campbell, Chantal Eldridge, Gretchen Guffy, Betsy Hanlon, Deidra Henry-Spires, Margaret Horn, Roneal Josephs, Tom O'Hara, Art Moran, Neville Waters, JD Wilde

Absent: Nasir Qadree

CCPCS Staff present: Russ Williams, Laura Berger, Clarice Ulu

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Chairman's Remarks
- III. Routine Business
 1. Approval of December Minutes
 2. Materials Contract Approval (if needed)
- IV. CEO Update
- V. MAP & Dashboard Review
- VI. ADW/Projects Update
- VII. Retreat Update
- VIII. Committee Reports & Goals
 1. Academic Committee
 2. Development Committee
 3. Finance Committee
 4. Governance Committee
 5. Advocacy/Engagement Ad Hoc Committee
- IX. Executive Session

Chair's Remarks

Lydia Adelfio, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all to this new era of virtual meetings. She thanked Russ and his team for all the work it took to get students ready for the next two weeks of home/virtual school and for dealing with a faced-paced upheaval in the nature of school.

Routine Business

Approval of Minutes

Action Requested: Approval of minutes from December 11, 2019 quarterly meeting

Motion approved

CEO Update

Russ Williams' overview:

- COVID-19 Update -

The last day of school for students was March 13. CC is closed through March 27. We are following the orders from the city, but we are not sure schools will reopen on March 31. Teachers produced, printed and distributed paper packets to families on March 17.

- We are still working to figure out distance learning for our schools. Some families have computers, many do not. The city has no plans to increase technology for all students.
- We will need to buy students hotspots, but need to wait to see if DC will be supplying them. .
- Congress Heights's population has a large scale lack of access to devices and internet. We want to ensure the students have work to do at home. This situation is exacerbating the achievement gap. Our well thought out and detailed printed packets will help.
- We are working hard to make sure teachers have what they need to help the students.
- There's an appreciation on behalf of the families for the material their children have received and we are trying to be mindful of the families' many needs.
- L. Adelfio will join a call today for board chairs with the DC Educational leadership (DME, OSSE, PCSB). Russ will join a call with LEAs today to monitor updates from the city.
- One of Russ's biggest concerns is figuring out how to effectively lead in this environment.
- CC is working with families to direct them to DC resources. There are 25 sites throughout the city that are providing meal distribution.
- Our teachers have shared their cell phone numbers with the students and families, and will check in on each student 1-2 times per week to provide guidance as they learn at home. We realize that some kids may be home alone because mom and dad have to work.
- We have placed signage at all schools, done email blasts and robocalls to keep families informed. We are staying on top of the information as it flows. We are still trying to figure out what this means for our teachers moving forward. Students may technically graduate the year with only 60% of the school year. We still have a lot of uncertainty and questions that we need to answer.
- The difficult timing of all of this is compounded by our heading into the teacher renewal season.

Before COVID-19 impacted school, the new buses were heavily utilized, they were working on updating the handbook, discipline was improving, they have been tweaking the process for restorative work, they have been fine-tuning the leadership pipeline work.

- ADW Update
 - Brightwood has a new pastor, Monsignor Watkins, replacing Father Evans. Russ has met with him and he seems willing to have productive conversations regarding physical plant issues, the playground and perhaps look at renovating the Youth Center along with the rectory to make use of dead space. Mons. Watkins has been in touch with our architect who will do some viability analysis and concept work.

Our other architect, Dan Betancourt is looking into three lots for sale ½ block from the Congress Heights campus, which could provide needed space relief for that campus. The linear frontage does not meet code, but we are looking to see if we could get relief.

We are also working on a number of fronts to improve our facilities for kids and staff

- Russ met again with Father Carlone about the Annex and Trinidad and shared basic conceptual drawings and will follow-up over next week to 10 days. It may be more practical from a zoning standpoint to purchase the whole parcel.
 - The Central Office has only 17 months left on its lease and CC has engaged a real estate firm to look at options if Amtrak is unwilling to provide a new lease.
 - We have six schools all of which are 60 - 120 years old buildings, and we are making huge investments in them, yet we don't have room for one true science lab. We are also looking for space to provide real STEM work using our buses to access.
- We submitted a proposal for a new lease agreement with the ADW at the end of February and Russ will follow up with the ADW CFO next week. Issues we are addressing are: decreasing the rate of annual increase, a misalignment on CC paying some of the parish's utilities, the need for a longer (20-25 year) lease instead of multiple 5-year ones and the need for rent credits.
 - Incident at Petworth - Parent became upset and physically assaulted the principal, Nazo Burgy. The parent understands she made a mistake. The parent had three kids at the school that have now been transferred to other campuses: one to Congress Heights and the other two to Shaw. We do not want to penalize students based on what the parents have done. We have had security in place for the past few weeks and will reassess at the end of the month. The parent has been barred from the campuses. We have talked extensively to the staff at Petworth to ensure they were all okay.

MAP & Dashboard Review - Laura Berger

Center City made a change last year on how often MAP was administered. It had been given Fall, Winter and Spring, but this year it will only be given in Winter. MAP is helpful in understanding if a student is ahead or behind his/her peers, but it doesn't assess the grasp of concepts well. Since it doesn't inform instruction we will now only use it in the middle of the year so the school will be able to compare year to year. Other assessments will be used to assess concept retention. K-2 will continue to take MAP Fall and Winter since it is required for the PMF. The winter MAP was moved from January back to December, losing weeks of instruction which negatively impacted this year's results.

We saw a dip in the reading scores in the last two years. Given the shift in the winter testing date, 3-4 weeks of extra instruction was lost before we administered it. Looking at just one year of growth, math scores had a big dip and our reading score has increased 3%, but it's not as high as last year's. We noticed that our new students are 15% below our returning students in reading.

- Overall, the lower achieving campuses went up and the higher achieving campuses went down.
- In reading: although we had drops overall in achievement, CON, PET and BRI scored higher than the national average. Shaw had dropped scores the past two years.
- In math: winter to winter growth is lower for most campuses; we had less growth compared to last year.
- Trends By Grade -
 - In Math, 6th grade is the weakest, being a transitional year makes it a tougher year. The biggest dip is in the early grades, with the dip in 2nd and 3rd grade most concerning. 3rd graders must read the MAP test, and if reading is poor, it negatively impacts the math test scores.
 - Normally 7th and 8th grade is high but had drops this year.
 - In Reading, drops in K, 1, 2, but improvements in 3, 5, and 6th.
 - Winter achievement for 3rd was above the national avg.
 - 6th and 7th grades had a big increase in growth, but growth was down in 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
- AC Dashboard
 - Attendance is up a little to 94.8%. (our goal is 95%)
 - Attendance at Trinidad has improved this year. Cap Hill is the only campus with a lower attendance rate.
 - Truancy is down by almost half!

- Tardy rates have increased. Have noticed a correlation between home location and tardies. Also, if an older sibling brings younger siblings to school - they are often late.
- CAP has seen an increase in tardiness due to the change in time that is considered tardy (came with new leadership)
- There are more tardies in the higher grades.
- All students receive breakfast no matter what time they arrive

Action: L. Berger will follow up with SHA and other campuses to determine if few older students opt for breakfast and will report back to the Academic Committee.

- Overall Enrollment-
 - 40 students have withdrawn this school year; ½ to go to other schools; ½ to move out of state. Withdrawal rate is 2.7%, which is better than last year. DC's rate is 4.6%, DC Charter's rate is 3.8%.
 - BRI and PET have a smaller At-Risk population than other campuses with CON and TRI with highest At-Risk population
 - BRI has an largest ELL population
 - Ward 4 is the most diverse ward in the city with many countries represented
 - Re-enrollment rate was up this year to 86.6%.
- Suspension Rates-
 - The rate is down by half compared to last year
 - Incident rates are also down
 - CAP has a higher number of In-School Suspension days.
 - SPED kids are an area of focus.
- D's and F's - SPED kids continue to have a high rate, especially at CAP H. Will focus on this.
- PARCC Testing
 - It's set for late April - May but DC hasn't made a decision to administer PARCC yet. (It was subsequently cancelled.)

Board Member Annual Contribution

L. Adelfio made a pitch to have all board members contribute each school year. Six have yet to make a contribution this FY.

Retreat

Please continue to hold the April 24th date. Russ and Lydia will work with Renee to determine how best to proceed.

Committee Reports

Committee goals should relate to and support each other.

Academic Committee - Margaret Horn

The committee is focused on reviewing the MAP and Dashboard. Excited to have Gretchen and Jerenze on the committee.

Development Committee - Art Moran

Fundraising has been hit hard with COVID-19. There were plans for an appeal blitz but in light of the corona virus and the stock market fall, we have put this on hold. A. Passante and R. Williams are planning a fundraising event in October at Coconuts for the Global Ambassadors Program. Art will follow-up with S. Andrews to share a potential list of corporate sponsors with the full board. There should be a March newsletter with a link to donate to the Global Ambassadors Program..

Finance Committee - Betsy Hanlon

The Finance and Accounting department is strapped and looking for an additional person. The budget is close to the forecast and with closure may not spend as much money. The committee approved using the same auditors. AC project at CAP HILL is significantly over budget and the School would like to get the project completed while the students are out of the building.

Action Requested: Approve of final funding for Air conditioning at Capitol Hill campus which allows us to complete it now, while students are out of the building. This is an increase on the original bid.

Motion Approved.

Action Requested: Two material contracts for technology.

Motion Approved.

Governance Committee - Deidra Henry-Spires/Neville Waters

Deidra announced that today was her last meeting and this has been a learning experience that she will never forget. She indicated that Neville has agreed to take over as chair of the committee. There were other farewell and appreciation comments for Deidra.

Neville has begun working with EBP to look for a financial person to fill one of our two empty board slots. The other slot is for someone with a high level ADW connection, which Tom is working on. The committee welcomes any suggestions from current board members.



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Advocacy and Engagement - Gretchen Guffy/ Roneal Josephs

Roneal attended an Education Board Partners (EBP) event focused on how to advocate for your school. Gretchen indicated that she has been to several EBP events and heard about the challenges that DCPS and charters face. The coronavirus issue will cause things to be on hold. Looking ahead, what do we want and want to advocate for in this landscape?

Lydia closed out the meeting with thanks to Deidra for all her work for the board and CCPCS.

Meeting adjourned for Executive Session.