

IDEA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for February 25, 2021

In Attendance

Calvin Snowden, Chair
Lakeshia Highsmith, Vice Chair
David Owens
Gizachew Andargeh
Ed Dunson
Nicole McCrae, Principal
Candice Durham
Tiffini Andorful
Kathleen Black
Kelly Nakamoto
Justin Rydstrom, Executive Director
Tracy Eichelberger, IDEA Staff
Sydney Stein, candidate for the Board of Trustees
Tawanda Johnson, candidate for the Board of Trustees

Chair's Remarks

Serving as chair for the meeting at the request of Dr. Snowden, Lakeisha Highsmith called the meeting to order at 6:06 and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. David Owens made the motion and Calvin Snowden seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Open Comment Period

Ms. Highsmith thanked the board and staff for their hard work during the pandemic. Mr. Owens, Dr. Snowden, and Giz Andargeh echoed Ms. Highsmith's praise and commented on the excellent work of IDEA scholars, staff, and leadership as observed via the newsletter and social media. There were no public comments during the open comment period.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Highsmith asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2020 meeting. Candace Durham made the motion and David Owens seconded. Approved by common consent.

Governance Committee

Mr. Andargeh announced the nomination of two new candidates to join the Board of Trustees: Sydney Stein and Tawanda Johnson. Ms. Stein has particular expertise in accounting and finance. Ms. Johnson is a librarian and an IDEA parent who is active in the community. Mr. Andargeh made a motion to approve the appointment of Sydney Stein and Tawanda Johnson to

the IDEA Board of Trustees. Ms. Nakamoto seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Finance Committee

Ms. Nakamoto shared that IDEA has significant cash on hand and all financial indicators are strong. She made a motion to approve a contract of \$79,900 with Sustainable Facilities Management for facilities management. The motion was seconded by Dr. Snowden. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Snowden asked if this contract included IT because the previous facilities management staff member also handled IT. Mr. Rydstrom said that IT is not included in this contract, but is being fulfilled by another company--Smooth Networks, led by IDEA alumnus Andy Carter with a full-time IT technician on site.

Academic Committee

Ms. Andorful gave the Academic Committee report, with contributions from Principal McCrae. She said that her expanded committee was planning to determine metrics to use to measure academic success and explore a variety of ways to communicate the information. The report included discussion of

- BOGO assignment catch up program
- In-person learning opportunities and testing
- Goal of 100% of members of senior class receiving college acceptances has been met
- Upcoming testing schedule
- Staff feedback on school culture is positive

In the absence of Ms. Zimmermann, Ms. Andorful provided the CTE update, which included

- 500% increase in corporate partnerships
- 2 scholars accepted to OSSE program at Syracuse University
- Ongoing challenge for DC teens to get driver's licenses, which are required by IEC Apprenticeship program. Ms. Johnson said that Ms. Zimmermann had arranged for those students to get their learner's permits at the DMV on Monday. DME Paul Kihn facilitated a special appointment at the DMV for IDEA pre-apprentices.

Ms. Durham provided the Reaccreditation Committee report, which discussed strengthening programs, policies, and partnerships.

Ms. Andorful provided the Reopening Committee report, which included the Committee's discussion of potential challenges to reopening, such as staffing, child care, and hybrid teaching.

Development Committee

Ms. Highsmith gave the Development Committee report, which was a call to action reminding board members about their giving obligations. She said board members would be receiving an invitation to contribute to scholarship funds. In the past, the board has funded 100% of scholarship funds.

Facilities Committee Report

Ed Dunson gave the Facilities Committee report. He said the committee was overseeing the design and construction of the Educare facility at IDEA and examining how the spaces will overlap. Mr. Dunson said further discussion is required for future renovations related to this expansion and upgrade food service capacity. Mr. Rydstrom suggested facility committee meetings would be scheduled to discuss plans, outlay of capital, landscaping, and other issues.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Rydstrom gave the Executive Director's report. This included discussion of the phases of the pandemic and how the experiences of the past 16 months affect scholars and staff and will continue to affect them in the future. He anticipates at least two more years of recovery. The top three priorities for IDEA are continued enrollment growth despite pandemic losses from public schools, successful safe re-entry for students and staff, and strategic planning.

Ms. Highsmith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Andargeh seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11.

The board entered executive session at 7:16 to discuss a contract matter under OMA exception for Trade Secrets; Commercial/Financial Information." The executive session adjourned at 7:29.

The next board meeting will be April 22, 2021.