

IDEA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for April 22, 2021

In Attendance

Calvin Snowden, Chair
Lakeshia Highsmith, Vice Chair
Gizachew Andargeh
Tiffini Andorful
Ed Dunson
Candice Durham
Tawanda Johnson
Nicole McCrae, Principal
Kelly Nakamoto
David Owens
Justin Rydstrom, Executive Director
Sydney Stein

Call to Order

Dr. Snowden called the meeting to order at 6:03. Mr. Owens made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dunson seconded the motion.

Chair's Remarks

Dr. Snowden said he is thankful to IDEA staff and board for progress over the past month.

Open Comment Period

There were no comments from members of the public.

Governance Committee

Mr. Andargeh provided the Governance Committee report. He said he talked with Chief Operating Officer Phil Robinson of Education Board Partners, who is now that organization's point of contact for IDEA. Mr. Andargeh told Mr. Robinson that IDEA's board is still seeking board members with particular expertise, including in the legal field.

Finance Committee

Ms. Nakamoto provided the Finance Committee report, which indicated that IDEA's financial indicators are strong. IDEA's current financial position is the strongest in the school's history. The FY22 budget will be presented at the June 24 meeting, including \$2.5 million for facility renovation. The Committee approved the FY20 IRS Form 990, which will be shared with the board via email.

Academic Committee

Ms. Andorful presented the Academic Committee report, with contributions from Principal McCrae. Principal McCrae reported that:

- 48% of scholars have re-entered the building for a variety of programs
- The building is open for all scholars, with safety protocols in place and registration required
- Failure rates are high across DC schools. IDEA is working to provide incentives to bring scholars who particularly need help into the building to receive targeted support whenever possible.
- BOGO program is popular and helping scholars catch up on work; 33 of 52 scholars who attended improved their grades in March
- FEV tutoring, available 24/7, will be continued throughout the next school year
- PARCC testing has been suspended this year
- Reopening Committee is thriving and has divided into three groups: reenergizing crew, welcoming crew, and parent information crew
- Reaccreditation Committee has been working with Melissa McKnight of LSG Group, who is helping write Reaccreditation Plan to guide IDEA's next seven years.

Mr. Owens asked about the status of students with special needs. Principal McCrae said that failure rates with these scholars are the same as overall failure rates, and that the families of students with special needs are reluctant to allow students to return to the building. IDEA is providing additional dedicated aides when possible.

Mr. Owens asked about IDEA's overall standing as a school during the pandemic. Ms. McCrae said that 86% of seniors are identified as on track to graduate. 8 of 59 students are not on track and 4 of these students receive services outside of IDEA. Principal McCrae said staff is working to help these scholars graduate late, in June or August with summer learning opportunities.

Dr. Snowden said that IDEA scholars who applied for NFL scholarships submitted impressive applications.

Principal McCrae mentioned that an IDEA scholar received the Steven J. Trachtenberg Scholarship (a full ride) at George Washington University and another IDEA scholar received the David M. Rubenstein Economic Club of DC scholarship.

Mr. Dunson asked about the registration process for in-person learning. Principal McCrae said registration includes COVID screening questions and scholars' choice of in-person hours.

Dr. Snowden asked if students are being encouraged to get vaccinated. Principal McCrae said yes.

Facilities Committee Report

Mr. Dunson gave the Facilities Committee report, with contributions from Mr. Rydstrom, which included

- Discussion of options from architects for renovation of Educare space, IDEA cafeteria, and welcoming area
- Blueprint of preferred proposal for renovation
- Expanded space for eating mitigates a high COVID risk activity
- Possible development of CTE pathway related to culinary arts or hospitality
- Commitment of \$750,000 from a philanthropic donor to support buildout (this will be largest donation ever given to IDEA)

Mr. Andargeh said that the presence of a high-quality kitchen could benefit IDEA by raising revenue from local catering, food trucks, or other community or restaurant businesses that might want to rent prep space.

Mr. Andargeh moved to approve committing \$2 million to move forward with the renovation plan, as recommended by the Facilities Committee. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Development Committee

Ms. Highsmith gave the Development Committee report, which included

- Thanks to board members who have contributed to the annual scholarship funds and invitation to any board members who have not yet contributed, in order to get 100% participation
- Possibility of future capital campaign to fund remainder of renovation

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Rydstrom gave the Executive Director's report, which included

- IDEA's top three priorities:
 - Continued enrollment growth
 - Successful safe re-entry for students and staff
 - Strategic planning
- Upcoming staff retreat and small group feedback sessions with LSG
- Graduation is June 11 at 11am at IDEA.

Dr. Snowden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

The board entered executive session at 7:05 . The executive session adjourned at 7:38.

The next board meeting will be June 24, 2021 at 6pm.