

Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2021
Meeting conducted via Zoom

Members Present:

Erin Albright
Jackie Beatty
Daniel Fine
Kemba Hendrix
Christina Jones
Gina Mahony
Roxana Mondragon- Motta, *newly appointed*
Jeff Nellhaus
Floyd Taliaferro, *newly appointed*
Pamela Taylor

Admin Present:

Monya Bundy, *Executive Operations Coordinator*
Will Henderson, *Executive Director of Operations*
Charlotte Spann, *Executive Director of Schools*
Tracy Wright, *Chief Executive Officer*

Opening

Ms. Albright called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Board Term Renewals

Ms. Albright announced the expiration of board terms for Sterling Ward and Jeffrey Nellhaus. She briefly shared their professional background and contributions to the Board and school during their terms. Ms. Albright moved to approve the three-year term renewals of Mr. Ward and Mr. Nellhaus. Ms. Mahony seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Board Members

The Governance Committee and Executive Committee hosted interviews with prospective board candidates that met the preferences specified in previous board meetings. Ms. Jones shared the professional experiences and potential contributions of two candidates, Floyd Taliaferro and Roxana Mondragon- Motta. Mr. Taliaferro offers a fresh perspective on socioemotional learning and mental health in an educational atmosphere. Ms. Mondragon- Motta has availed pro-bono legal services for immigration matters and could be a great support for our Latino/Latina and English Learner (EL) students. Committee members present during the candidates' interviews offered additional insight, and Ms. Albright opened the floor for motions to nominate the candidates. Ms. Hendrix moved to approve the addition of Mr. Taliaferro to the Board. Ms. Taylor seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Nellhaus moved to approve the addition of Ms. Mondragon- Motta to the Board. Ms. Mahony seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Ms. Albright asked board members for a motion to approve the minutes of the March Board Meeting. Ms. Jones moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, as all present members voted in favor of the minutes, as written.

CEO's Report

School Updates:

Dr. Wright informed the Board that in light of new mandates from the Office of the Mayor, Paul's plan to use a hybrid model for scholars beginning Fall 2021 has now shifted to a full capacity and 5-day week in person learning. Paul is awaiting guidance from Mayor's office and OSSE regarding families that prefer to continue with distance learning. Significant planning and preparation meetings are underway to comply with this new regulation.

OSSE approved the accountability and state testing waiver, so it has been confirmed that Paul will not administer PARCC in the Spring but will have an Advisory 4 Interim Assessment and continued MAP testing until the end of the school year. Mr. Nellhaus mentioned the possibility of PARCC being held in the Fall. Details and confirmation are forthcoming.

Enrollment:

There are approximately 900 active potential students in our pool for enrollment. This number exceeds that of SY19-20, when we met our enrollment target, and significantly exceeds that of SY20-21 during the beginning of distance learning.

5th Grade Expansion:

Dr. Wright provided framing for our expansion efforts and a draft of a timeline to proceed with adding a 5th grade class to Paul. It was agreed in both committee and full board meetings that a vote would occur this month to approve the allocation of resources necessary to gain a clearer understanding of what this expansion entails. After an in-depth discussion, Ms. Taylor moved to approve moving forward with the planning process for the 5th grade expansion. Ms. Jones seconded the motion, and the motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

In proposing the FY22 budget, Mr. Henderson explained the rationale behind the major implications for the SY21-22 budget, including addressing learning loss, reestablishing school culture, and focusing on reopening doors to scholars 5 days per week for in person instruction and still providing a hybrid option for families uncomfortable with returning in person. The budget target will be largely based on an enrollment of 720 students (though we are aiming for 760) and supported by a proposed increase in per-pupil funding, CARES Act and Recovery Funding. On the expense side, Paul is prepared to support an adjusted teacher/ staffing model, and financially prepare for the substantial increase in food service costs, as the major facilities needs were accounted for in the FY21 budget.

Mr. Fine summarized that there has been a major increase in federal revenue due to pandemic relief programming for public schools, and while Paul has an anticipated revenue of \$20 million, the expenses before debt service total \$18.8 million, before capital expenditures. Paul should be in a

comfortable financial space for our debt service coverage, our cash balance is expected to decrease \$200K. The overall aim for FY22 is to budget with days of cash above 90.

Committee Reports

Governance Committee:

Ms. Jones and Ms. Mahony discussed changes in the Board Member Agreement, to include updates in training and attendance requirements, and clarity around financial contributions. Board members with longer terms will be partnered with newer board members to serve as a mentor and acclimation support, specifically as it pertains to Paul's Board materials, standards, expectations, and culture.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

Closing

There being no further business to address, Ms. Albright adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.