

Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2021

Trustees Participating: Carlos Bonner, Tracey Friedlander, Crystal Goliday, Heather Harding, Hoyt King, Robyn Lingo, Rodney Rice, Ami Richardson, Jenice View

Staff Participating: Erika Bryant, Bill Moczydlowski, Linda Moore, Julia Senerchia

Call to Order: Board Chair, Heather Harding, called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

Minutes were reviewed. Ami Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes. Rodney Rice seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Report: Bill Moczydlowski presented the financial report for the third quarter financials. Income (\$9.7M) is over budget. However, school has not received the PPP loan forgiveness yet. Net income equals \$1.1 M. Bill forecasts a break-even budget at the end of the fiscal year. Receivables are up because of grant reimbursements. Accounts payable is up because of increased coronavirus expenses.

Mr. Moczydlowski presented a draft budget for SY 21-22.

Budget assumptions:

Income

Adding one grade (55 students) at East end campus

Per Pupil allowance of 3.6%

PPP loan forgiveness of \$1.452M

Aftercare income of \$200K

Expense

3% salary increase

Additional staff requirements

Aftercare expenses at \$200K

20% increase in student occupancy expenses (modular classroom lease, other social distancing measures, increase in students, inflation)

Projected Break Even 2021-22 Budget

Income=\$15.8M

Expense=\$15.8M

Discussion:

Mr. Bonner: Would acquisition of additional catering contracts result in more of a cushion?

Mr. Moczydlowski: Yes

Ms. Bryant: However, it is not realistic to assume that the school will pick up additional contracts. The complexities around returning to the classroom may reduce the market for catering contracts.

Ms. Goliday: What are the government grants?

Mr. Moczydlowski: ESSR grants and a SOAR grant

Ms. Moore: When will the board have a final budget to review

Mr. Moczydlowski: After minor revisions, the finance committee will review the budget and will present the final budget to the full board in time for the budget submission date in July.

Dr. Harding: Approval of the DC government budget has been delayed and therefore there is a slight delay in submission deadlines.

Academic Performance Data Report:

Julia Senerchia, Director of Data, Planning and Accountability, presented a summary of the winter NWEA data. NWEA, a nationally normed assessment, was administered in February and March. Students took the assessment both in classrooms and at home.

Students, overall, performed at just over the 60th percentile in reading. The school found that students who tested in the building had markedly lower scores than those who took the test at home. Stokes typically uses this data to identify students who need intervention and to assess the instructional program. This year the school is using the data to help plan for academic recovery.

Math achievement was above the national norm but growth scores were low.

Discussion:

Dr. Harding: What are the test result overlaps among ELL, SPED, At-risk and racial groups? Are some racial groups over-represented in some of these groups?

Dr. View: Does NWEA measure students' math sense?

Senerchia: Possibly not. Preliminary research indicates that across the board nationally and locally students have struggled with math with distance learning instruction.

Ms. Senerchia reported that the Academic Recovery Plan will:

- Emphasize personal, social, physical education.
- Focus on creating individualized plans for student learning.
- Emphasize early start math and reading interventions.
- Employ curricular adjustments.

Discussion:

Ms. Moore: The recovery can provide an optimum time to assess what works and what doesn't. The school may benefit from considering partnering a higher education partner to conduct research.

Ms. Lingo: Commended emphasis on social-emotional recovery. Are there plans to work with 5th graders, who did not perform particularly well on NWEA to support students' transition to middle school?

Julia: Yes, the school is planning a week-long transition session with 5th graders and their families.

Executive Director's Report:

- Cares Classes returned on March 22nd.
- 180 PK and Kindergarten students returned to Brookland and East End campuses on April 26th. PK and Kindergarten classes are using a limited hybrid approach.
- Urban Adventure Squad field trips for 1st-5th grade students and families began April 26th.

- An on-campus, in-person 5th grade graduation, allowing a limited number of guests, is planned for June, 2021

The public portion of the board meeting was closed at 11:06 am for an Executive Session.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 11:30am.

The motion to adjourn the full board meeting was made by Jenice View, seconded by Robyn Lingo and was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 am.