

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

THE SEED School of Washington, D.C.

May 27, 2021

9:00 A.M. EST

Attendance:

Directors

Angelita Buckman
Lesley Poole
Desa Sealy
David Steinberg
Raj Vinnakota
Eric Vinson

Absent

Vasco Fernandes
Huck O'Connor

Staff

Vincena Allen
Ken Arndt
LaMar Bagley
Keniq Coney
Curtis Durham
Eriel Holloway
Rashida Holman-Jones
Alisha Huntley
Kendra Johnson-Tesch
Chloe Marshall
Hopi Moodie
Brian Rahaman
Christopher Rooks
Karmin Tia-Green

Secretary of the Meeting

Vita Makle

Call to Order

Ms. Desa Sealy, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Ms. Sealy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the Minutes from March 4, 2021; the board minutes were passed unanimously.

Head of School Update

Dr. Brian Rahaman shared the following objectives of the meeting.

- Provide updates on the senior class, school performance, and school improvement plan
- Provide updates on enrollment, student life program, and school finances
- Approve FY22 Budget
- Discuss the special project and determine next steps

Dr. Rahaman noted the difficult and unprecedented school year and pointed to several metrics that indicated the year was a success despite the challenges, which all schools faced. In particular, Dr. Rahaman highlighted the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) process, combined with the intensive focus on identifying and supporting struggling students beginning early in the school year, as keys to ensuring student success.

Dr. Rahaman provided an update on the senior class. Out of thirty-seven (37) seniors, thirty-six (36) seniors have met the requirements to graduate in June 2021. SEED DC will have an in-person commencement ceremony to be held on Saturday, June 19th at 10 am on campus in the Courtyard under a tent.

Student Outcomes

Dr. Rahaman reported the following student performance metrics:

- 70% of students are passing all classes through the first three quarters of the school year.
- 17% of students are failing three or more classes
- Course pass rate in ELA = 91%
- Course pass rate in Math = 95%

Dr. Rahaman reported that students took the spring MAP assessment at the beginning of March. The average achievement percentile for students is between the 31st and 38th percentile. Math achievement rates continue to trend slightly higher than reading achievement.

To improve student achievement, we plan to hire a reading specialist; provide more literacy-based training for content area teachers; double-block math and reading; add a writing course for students; and provide high dosage tutoring during the evening program.

Dr. Rahaman reported that students who participated in the hybrid program (3 days on campus, 2 days at home) performed better over time. In other words, the hybrid program helped many students improve their attendance and course performance.

Ms. Lesley Poole asked the following questions about the hybrid program: What does it look like across grade levels? What worked for who, when, and what did not work? Dr. Rahaman responded that an initial group of 22 students was identified due to low attendance and low grades. These students were invited to participate in the hybrid program beginning in December 2020 (the program expanded to all students in March 2021). Approximately 17 out of the 22 students in the initial group significantly improved their performance by the fourth quarter of the school year.

Student Enrollment

Dr. Rahaman shared that the number of completed enrollments far exceeds the number from the previous school year at this point in the year. As of the date of the board meeting, approximately 227 students had completed the enrollment process, with another 25-30 students still in process. Enrollment work will continue throughout the summer months.

What Worked this Year?

Shared accountability for student success

- Increased program coherence
- Engaging curriculum and instruction
- Early identification of students who need more support
- Personalized approach to student support

Key Adjustments for Next Year:

- Dramatic increase of instructional time, especially in literacy and math
- Improvement to curriculum
- Wraparound support for students as we transition back to in-person learning
- Intense focus on building community

Ms. Lesley Poole said she would like to “Parking Lot” the following topics:

- Summer program
- Standardized testing
- 25-year review

Staff Update

Dr. Rahaman shared new staff changes for SY21-22. Dr. LaMar Bagley will move into the role of Director of Arts Program Design and Mr. Christopher Rooks will assume the role of Director of Student Life. Dr. Bagley served SEED DC in Student Life throughout his 16-year tenure and has led an award-winning theater arts program. Mr. Rooks served SEED DC as a math teacher, instructional coach, restorative justice lead, and an assistant principal.

School Improvement Plan

Dr. Rahaman shared the following school goals from the school improvement plan:

Goal 1: 90% of students will pass all courses

Goal 2: 90% of teachers will be rated as “effective” on the instructional framework

Goal 3: Develop a school-wide SEL plan aligned to the network SEL rubric

Goal 4: Daily attendance rate of 92 percent or higher

Goal 5: 65% of seniors will apply to 10 or more right-fit colleges

Goal 6: 90% of seniors will be accepted to two or more right-fit colleges



Dr. Rahaman stated that school leaders believe Goal 1 of 90 percent of students passing all courses is within reach. Goals 2, 3, and 5 are achievable. Goals 4 and 6 may be out of range for the school at this point.

Student Life

Dr. LaMar Bagley provided an overview of the Student Life program:

- Approximately 60 students have participated in the hybrid program;
- We are surveying students bi-weekly to learn about the student experience so that we can find ways to improve;
- Staff offer both in-person and remote programming for students simultaneously;
- We re-purposed Student Life staff to support the needs of students during the pandemic;
- We anticipate more students will begin boarding in the last few weeks of the school year; and
- We continue to offer new program activities to keep students engaged.

Dr. Bagley shared a few Student Life SPARKS programming pictures, including iMotivate, Paint By Numbers Canvas, Gardening & Horticulture, DIY Tie Dye, and Media Center activities (board games, video gaming, and movies).

Enrollment

Ms. Rashida Holman-Jones reported that SEED DC has a current enrollment of 216. The projected enrollment for SY21-22 is 230. SEED DC received 225 applications through the MySchoolDC portal. A total of five students withdrew this school year, including three 9th grade students, one 10th grade student, and one 11th grade student. There were no dismissals. These numbers are dramatically lower than in previous years. For example, at this point last school year nearly 30 students had withdrawn.

Finance

Mr. Ken Arndt reported the following finance updates:

- YTD Results through April 30, 2021
- Year-end projections
- Cash Forecast

Mr. Arndt reported SEED DC is in good financial standing.

Dr. Rahaman presented the FY22 budget to the board for approval. The directors unanimously approved the budget.

Special Projects

Dr. Rahaman provided an overview of the special project ideas and the criteria that would be used to select a project(s). The project ideas include a multi-media center, a college-style learning space, a student lounge, and a new soccer field with field turf. Dr. Rahaman shared his belief that these special projects will enhance the school program,



improve students' experiences, and support engagement and increased enrollment.

The board members expressed excitement about the proposed special projects. Ms. Angelita Buckman and Mr. Eric Vinson liked the idea of a multi-media center. Mr. David Steinberg liked the idea of the student lounge. The directors gave the green light to proceed with getting cost estimates for the various projects.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.