



E.L. Haynes Public Charter School

Minutes

September 2021 Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday September 23, 2021 at 6:15 PM

Location

E.L. Haynes Public Charter School
High School PD Room
4501 Kansas Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Trustees Present

A. Smith, D. McCoy (remote), E. Westendorf, F. Sutton, J. Edelman, L. Carlton, M. Hall (remote), M. McDonough (remote), N. Greene (remote), R. Laine, R. Payes (remote), T. Gibian (remote)

Trustees Absent

G. Navidi-Kasmai, L. Jordan

Guests Present

E. Hueber Stoetzer, H. Darilek, K. Wynne, K. Yochum, M. Boyer, R. Hunt Taylor, R. Murphy

I. Opening Items**A. Record Attendance****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

J. Edelman called a meeting of the board of trustees of E.L. Haynes Public Charter School to order on Thursday Sep 23, 2021 at 6:20 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Westendorf made a motion to approve the minutes from August 17, 2021 August 2021 Board Meeting on 08-17-21.

R. Laine seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Public Comment

II. CEO Update

A. CEO Update

Before beginning the CEO Update, Board Chair Edelman discussed news stories of challenges in schools across the country and the importance of right sizing goals and expectations.

CEO Darilek began her update welcoming Rob Murphy, the new Senior Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. She indicated that it was the fourth week of school, and focused on three themes for the school year so far, including:

- Joy evident through walking through the hallways, observing classrooms, and cheering on sports team;
- Constant change, such as covering classes for staff members not feeling well, adjustments to changing Covid-19 guidelines, and adjustments to support quarantining students; and
- Early exhaustion given the pace of change and shortfalls in staffing in certain respects.

A Board member commented on the common practice of adding on duties to staff in education and the importance of considering what could be taken off the list, especially so that staff members are able to sustain throughout the year.

CEO Darilek next discussed the Strategic Plan, and reiterated that it still is the North Star. She referred to the 2021-2022 Organizational Dashboard provided in advance of the meeting, and indicated that it would be discussed further at a future Board meeting. CEO Darilek then provided updates on the vaccine mandate, student medical exemptions, the use of the at-risk preference in the lottery, recent visits by City leaders to the school, and 2021-2022 enrollment.

In response to a question from a Board member, CEO Darilek discussed the Covid-19 testing program. Board members then asked questions about students with medical exemptions and unvaccinated staff members, which led to a discussion on retaining and attracting staff.

III. School Performance

A. Week 1-3: Successes and Challenges

School Performance Committee Chair Westendorf provided an update on themes of focus during the Committee's most recent meeting. He turned to Chief Academic Officer Hunt Taylor to provide an update on successes and challenges during the first few weeks of school.

Dr. Hunt Taylor first discussed highlights, such as Leadership Week, Coaches Institute, and the new Staff Institute; student energy and engagement from in-person learning; strong compliance with Covid-19 protocols; and being on track to complete assessments to create a reliable plan for instruction needs. She then focused on areas of focus, including instructional staff shortages and reductions in attendance. Referring to materials provided in advance of the meeting, Dr. Hunt

Taylor reviewed the attendance year to date by campus, noting the largest gap as compared to prior years in the Elementary School.

Next, Dr. Hunt Taylor reminded the Board of key priorities for the 2021-2022 school year, including instruction, individualized student supports, wellness, and family engagement. She provided updates on progress against each priority. Dr. Hunt Taylor then focused on challenges related to meeting key priorities, including prioritizing work, managing an ever-expanding distance learning program, and needing to increase focus on family engagement.

IV. Governance

A. Governance Committee Update

CEO Darilek provided an update on Governance Committee activities. The Committee's key focus of the year will be recruitment, given one Board vacancy and four Board members who have terms expiring. Committee members will reach out to individual Board members for recommendations for Board members.

V. Community Relations Committee

A. Annual Fund Update

Community Relations Committee Chair Smith provided an update on progress against the annual fund. She discussed the expanded scope of the Committee, and the importance of engagement with the broader community. She invited Board members to participate in upcoming meetings of the Committee.

VI. Closed Session

A. Closed - Session

D. McCoy made a motion to to enter into a closed session to discuss personnel matters in accordance with DC Code Section 2-575(b).

A. Smith seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

The Board met in Closed Session to discuss personnel matters.

J. Edelman made a motion to approve CEO Darilek's performance evaluation.

E. Westendorf seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. McCoy

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.