

**Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 9, 2021**  
*Meeting conducted via Zoom*

**Members Present:**

Erin Albright  
Andrea Deadwyler  
Kemba Hendrix  
Christina Jones  
Gina Mahony  
Roxana Mondragon- Motta  
Jeff Nellhaus  
Pamela Taylor  
Jennifer Ubiera  
Sterling Ward

**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 6:04pm.

**Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Albright asked board members for a motion to approve the minutes of the October Board Meeting. Ms. Taylor moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Board Departure**

Ms. Mahony's current 3-year term expires this month, and she has decided to resign from the Board of Trustees. Board members thanked her for her service, highlighting the monumental tasks she managed while serving as Chair.

**CEO's Report**

*Assessment Data*

Dr. Wright shared data discussed in the last School Performance Committee meeting, aligning A1 assessment data with the newly established cut scores (via EdOps). Overall, data showed strong performance in all areas except 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math, and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA and Math.

*Culture of Community*

Professional Development shifts have been made to support mental health of the staff members who are needing more time to adjust to shifts in workloads and being in person. Staff will now have the opportunity to participate in PD virtually on alternating Thursdays.

### *Paul '21*

Dr. Wright announced the year-long celebration underway to commemorate Paul's 21 years as a charter school. She encouraged members to participate in Giving Tuesday, supporting graduates who needs financial support in their undergraduate studies in what has been coined Paul's "Safe Fund". Paul PCS is sure to verify the need of the student(s) who will receive these funds, but in essence, no former student is turned away financially, and can be awarded \$300-\$500. Paul is also hosting a gala on December 11<sup>th</sup> which board members are encouraged to attend. Proceeds from this event will also be added to the Safe Fund.

### *AALE Accreditation*

Paul received its reaccreditation confirmation from The American Academy for Liberal Education on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Paul will be accredited for another 5 years and will be monitored via interim reports to ensure suggestions and recommendations are implemented in the coming school years.

## **5th Grade Expansion**

After careful deliberation, Dr. Wright and the Executive Leadership of Paul proposes that the Board votes to approve the addition of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, but no sooner than the 2023-2024 school year. Due to the mental space and capacity of teachers, post-pandemic, this time is necessary for the school to restabilize.

The School Performance Committee believes that it may be difficult to enroll the encouraged 25 students for the first class of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in light of the lingering pandemic and believes Paul should explore other means to stabilize enrollment in the meantime. The SPC will continue to analyze data and encourage pulse checks on the organization before launching this expansion.

The Finance Committee believes we are in a solid position to fund the expansion. Though it will require an investment on the front end (not expecting to exceed \$100K per year) but should stabilize and break even as enrollment increases in years to come.

The Marketing, Development, and Public Relations will focus on the planning and execution of this project, particularly narrowing down ideal target audiences and mapping out strategies to appeal to them.

The Executive Committee supports the proposal presented by Dr. Wright. As such, Ms. Albright motioned to approve the addition of a 5th grade class no sooner than SY 23-24. Ms. Jones seconded the motion, and the floor was opened for discussion.

Beginning in January, the School Performance Committee will work closely with Dr. Wright to determine the assessment data and markers to consider and monitor in SY 22-23. Dr. Wright will share with the staff that we're aiming for SY23-24 and if there are people who want to provide feedback, they are welcome to do so. It will be clear that we are working towards a self-contained 5th grade so that current staff members aren't greatly impacted. Foundational work and planning for this expansion will be begin during SY22-23, but the timeline can and will be revised as the current school year progresses.

After the open discussion concluded, Ms. Albright restated her motion (which Ms. Jones seconded) and asked for the vote of each board member. The motion was approved unanimously.

**New Business**

Ms. Jones, Governance Chair, mentioned the potential removal of a board member, due to non-responsiveness. She will reach out to the individual over next 60 days to notify them of potential proceedings, and a follow up will be brought to the Board in January.

**Closing**

There being no further business to address, Ms. Albright adjourned the meeting at 7:04pm.