



Inspired Teaching Demonstration School

Board of Directors Meeting

August 31, 2021

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. ET (via Zoom)

In attendance: Andrea Browning, Morris Clarke, Maureen Ingram, Joanne Irby, John Leibovitz, Aleta Margolis, Lucy Newton, Sundai Riggins, Pete Weber, Rusty Wilson (Michelle Lerner absent)

Minutes by: Joanne Irby, Board Secretary

Staff: Kate Keplinger

Called to Order: 6:05 pm

Approval of Minutes: June 7 and July 19 Board Meeting minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

- **Finance and Business Oversight Committee:** Our budget is about \$12M annually, we always run in the black, conservatively, that could change; we may be spending \$250K+ in COVID issues. \$243K is the general surplus, because of the initiatives we expect to spend money on.

Two things coming: we have to refinance our loan on the building, but we've been holding because of needing to extend the lease; we now have a letter of intent after 2 years, to extend the lease for 25 years. It's not in time to do the refinance of the loan before our current extension runs out, so we'll need to do another short-term extension, Anticipate coming to the Board on the refi terms in the Spring. The other issue is buying out Building Hope, the incubator that we needed to partner with. They own 38% of the building, we've been storing money to try to do that. Would mean taking responsibility for running the building ourselves, replacing the Building Hope services. De minimis admin cost of <\$10K, plus a pay down of the principal which Building Hope will pay.

- **Nominations and Governance: Working with** Education Board Partners to find more candidates; they got close over the summer, but EBP has found that candidates are either being placed very quickly, or are taking themselves out of the process; Three candidates they're discussing now: one with a legal background, two others with other board experience; assessment process is ongoing. Email/call Morris with potential candidates. Also a need for parent

Board members, as well as finance backgrounds and city government relationships.

- **Demonstration and Fundraising:** Focusing efforts on the 10th anniversary of the school; have been working with IFA, have reserved the Edgewood Rec Ctr for the 10th Anniversary of Fall Fest, with a potential after party; the other piece is a program around the educational purpose of the school, where we've been, where we're going; perhaps get integrated with the Charter Alliance's upcoming conference. All TBD. Would like to extend the committee to include school staff and IFA liaison.
- **Academic Quality Committee:** HoS (optional), Ben as liaison, leadership team; committee last met in June; want focus to be meaningful indicators of student learning and well-being; because kids were at home, they were unable to access some of the assessment tools, resulting in less assessment data than we would have liked; will be looking at iReady data; there would be a focus on early childhood English learners, kids with ILOs that weren't showing the growth we would want; EBP is putting together a dashboard, would allow leadership and Board to be looking at the same indicators. Kelly Brown was reviewing. We were discussing meaningful comparator schools. That's the intermediate focus, but the immediate focus is learning how best to support the educational staff.

School Update

- COVID Testing
- HVAC Concerns: We did an explanation through the HVAC vendor to staff, explaining the difference between ventilation and cooling; used that explanation to inform parents as well
- Whistleblower/Trust with School Leadership
 - We've moved staff meetings to be virtual or outside, to keep folks distant; Leadership team as well is rethinking all meeting together. Dr. Riggins has been doing 1-on-1 staff meetings, with anyone who's wanted to sign up. Has done 30+ and will continue.
 - Have committed to increasing communications with families; had community meetings with families around covid, hvac, etc., and followed up with questions in writing. Will hold those monthly. First portion will be about COVID info sharing, followed by open forum, next one is 9/23 at 5pm.
 - Went through what -if scenarios with staff
 - The root of the whistleblower issue may be not having clear information, exacerbated by the fear/anxiety of being in a pandemic
- At-Risk Lottery Preference: Our preference has been approved; Dr. Riggins will convene a staff working group, to conduct a resource audit, determine any configurations needed. Currently, at-risk students are not performing as well as the general population, but the data from last year is unreliable; data collection and interviews with families and staff who've been working with students and families will produce as in depth quantitative and qualitative results as possible, given the data gaps
- On Friday, expect to be at 98% fully vaccinated
- Enrollment is at 504 kids, slated to be at 520, with a 5 student contingency; will offer seats over the next week or two to get as close to 520 as possible

- Re student testing, it is scheduled to start next week; have a few students who have opted out, there will be training for staff involved in the process on Friday, same company doing this testing across many schools in DC
- For kids sent home to quarantine, instruction will depend on the number of kids; eg, if a whole class is impacted, instruction can move to virtual. In instances, where only some kids in a class need to quarantine, the majority group would determine how to continue to work with the teacher and assistant teacher; also preventative quarantining for when families travel, or when kids have unexplained symptoms but don't have positive tests; may allow for some kind of asynchronous learning. Tech products are on order, delivery was slow; the need will be to get staff trained, particularly new staff, so that there will always be asynchronous learning opportunities available for kids who can't be in a classroom. Teachers will be going through Google Classroom training, and assessments, to then be able to customize their training.

Board expressed appreciation for the school staff and leadership's efforts.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35pm.