

Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2021
Meeting conducted via Zoom

Members Present:

Erin Albright
Andrea Deadwyler
Kemba Hendrix
Christina Jones
Roxana Mondragon- Motta
Jeff Nellhaus
Kathy Quigley
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*

Others Present:

Julia Linfors, *DeliverEd*
Josh Boots, *EmpowerK12*

Opening

After introducing Mrs. Deadwyler (newly appointed parent trustee) to the full board, Ms. Albright called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

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

CEO's Report

Dr. Wright shared Paul's marketing campaign and year-long celebration commemorating 21 years as a charter school. This celebration is in lieu of a 20-year anniversary that would have occurred while students were virtual this time last year. Dr. Wright also provided a high-level overview of the impact COVID like symptoms have had on attendance rates. Finally, she shared new interim cut scores that were developed by EdOps to provide a more comparable analysis of PARCC scores. This data will be shared with the School Performance Committee in November.

5th Grade Expansion Capacity Review

Ms. Linfors (DeliverEd) and Mr. Boots (EmpowerK12) shared the data they collected within the last three months to support the Board in making an informed decision to expand Paul PCS. During this process, the DeliverEd team collected qualitative data and conducted interviews with several stakeholders of the Paul community to determine whether or not the expansion would be positively received and supported. EmpowerK12 collected quantitative data, analyzing student achievement and enrollment data to determine the strength of programming and participation, and the likelihood of favorable data in years to come with a new class of students.

The Expansion Capacity Review findings determined that the duration of enrollment at Paul correlates with student achievement, thus leading the team to project adding a 5th grade class will improve academic success of Paul scholars. This includes being more adaptable to the culture of the school (“The Paul Way”) and more receptive to interventions when introduced to the schoolwide behavior standards early in their academic careers. In a quantitative sense, by analyzing the MS STAR Framework reports, the projected net gain will be roughly 8 points once adding the 5th grade class.

Paul would need to enroll at least 16 students for the 5th grade its first year in order to reach projected enrollment targets in the future. If Paul is unable to meet the 16-student enrollment minimum, parents will be informed as early as late April/ early May so they can select another school for their rising 5th grade student. If the original target is met, and grows consistently, there is a 50/50 chance of fully enrolling two classes with 50 5th grade students in SY23-24.

Ms. Linfors noted that questions were raised amongst interviewees regarding the physical proximity of students, specifically with logistical concerns, movement, staffing, space, COVID protocols, and maturity variations. Dr. Wright and Mr. Henderson assured the Board that proper measures were in place to address all of these concerns.

Regarding educator fatigue and mental bandwidth, which was mentioned by interviewees and emphasized by Ms. Mondragon- Motta, Dr. Wright explained that the majority of the work involved with this expansion would be done by Network team members and will not be added to the workloads of teachers. Additionally, Paul is in a financial position to staff up, and will not expect current Middle School teachers to be responsible for teaching the added class.

Dr. Wright concluded by confirming that this addition would not destabilize the Middle School as Paul experienced with the addition of the High School. Mr. Ward elaborated on this sentiment.

Next Steps

Any follow up questions about the presentation should be sent to Dr. Wright and Ms. Bundy, to then relay to the DeliverEd and EmpowerK12 teams. If the Board votes in favor

of the expansion, Dr. Wright will work with her team and the Board to determine an appropriate timeline.

Closing

The Finance Committee will meet on November 1st, and the Executive and School Performance Committees will meet on November 8th. On November 9th, the full board will convene to vote on the 5th grade expansion.

There being no further business to address, Ms. Albright adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm.