



Inspired Teaching Demonstration School

Board of Directors Meeting
November 1, 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

Minutes by: Joanne Irby, Board Secretary

Staff: Kate Keplinger

Called to Order: 6:04 pm

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to amend the August minutes to clarify student data collection challenge last spring.

Motion to Approve the Minutes.

Approved without objection.

Community Public Comment:

Jelena Schultz, parent

Suggestions about additional extracurricular/after school activities for students, and asked for more information/communications about the set-up and schedule around the outdoor tents.

Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee:** Focused on equity and inclusion issues and preparing an RFP for an outside consultant. Executive Committee will own this process through an initial assessment, and then take the consultant's recommendation about how to structure the work.
- **Finance and Business Oversight Committee:**
 - Enrollment projected to be at 506, 14 students below enrollment ceiling, which will affect revenue. Every other financial metric is up. Offset by additional grant funds (Covid related).
 - Discussion of lease extension process, refinancing, and possible buy-out of Building Pathways.
- **Academic Committee:** Meeting quarterly to align with academic data availability. Current primary takeaways from data:
 - Impact of remote learning was not as significant across the school as expected;
 - City-wide data collection, our students fared better;

- Impact of the pandemic was not solely learning loss, but the socioemotional development of missing 1 ½ years of interaction; every child is in a different place of adjusting and will need different amounts of time;
- Attendance is down due to quarantines;
- Some students will be coming in without having early childhood education, as in prior years;
- School will look closely at at-risk students; city wide, there was a higher proportion of at-risk students who were not engaging in remote learning.

Committee will be advancing a systematic way to look at data consistently over time

- **Nominations and Governance Committee:**
 - Continuing to work through the candidate process with Education Board Partners; ideally have three individuals join the Board this year.
 - Developing more standard Board packet for potential candidates.
- **Demonstration and Fundraising:**
 - Fall Fest was a success, led by IFA with about 150 participants, capped by singing Happy Birthday to the School.
 - Dr. Riggins led a panel at the DC Charter Alliance's annual conference.
 - Looking at capacity building for the demonstration function.

Head of School Update

General School Updates

- Today was the Halloween parade, which provided a lot of fun and joy for students and staff.
- Continue to focus on SEL and adjustments for students and families.
- Learning Showcase is Nov. 18. Michelle Walker-Davis, PCSB Executive Director, is visiting the school that day and invited to the Virtual Showcase.
- Parent Teacher Conferences were offered in-person or virtual, so that families would have options.
- Convening a focus group of Master Teachers to support them as leaders.

COVID Mitigation Strategies

- Increased testing to meet the mandate of 20% weekly.
- Added onsite Curative van once a week to offer swab testing option.
- The school is looking into the potential of being a vaccination site. Will also create education and outreach opportunities for families over the next couple of months.

Equitable Access Lottery Preference

- Shared preference approval with staff and 5 staff members have volunteered to join the working group.
- Participated in a panel discussion: Progressive Education for All, at the 5th Annual DC Charter Conference, along with other schools participating in the new preference

Family Conferences and Engagement

- In-person and virtual options for families; offered various times to increase options and participation
- Cookies and Conversation chat with families prior to dismissal
- Securing a speaker for next Community Meeting with focus on Screen Time
- Looking to schedule series of information sessions on COVID vaccinations.
- Thanks to the IFA and the Demonstration Committee for their collaboration around Fall Fest

Meeting Adjourned at 7:51pm.