



**Board Meeting  
May 17, 2022**

**Board Member Attendance**

<p><b><u>Present (by phone or video):</u></b>          Patrick Clowney, Chair          Jenny Abramson          Collette Bruce          Lisa Cullins          Chevalier Cleaves          Terry Eakin          Michela English          Dan Fine          Ahmad Hajj          Temica Hunt          Mercedes Kearney          Emily Lawson          Pamela Steptoe</p>	<p><b><u>Absent</u></b>          Hadley Cooper          Sterling Thomas</p>
<p><b><u>Others Present:</u></b>          Laura Maestas, Chief Executive Officer          Katie Severn, President and Chief Academic Officer          Aliesha Maye, Chief of School Operations          Jade Polly, Associate Director of Special Projects          Dan Englender, Chief of Finance          Neils Ribeiro-Yemofio, Chief of External Affairs</p> <p>Kearney Shanahan, Counsel</p> <p>Lynndi Maddox, Lawyer</p>	

Patrick Clowney called the meeting to order at approximately 5:20 pm. A quorum was present by video.

Clowney directed the Board’s attention to the May Board meeting Minutes. Emily Lawson motioned that the Board approve them. Pamela Steptoe seconded the Motion. In a roll call vote,

each of the Board Members listed above as “Present” voted to approve the Motion. The Board unanimously approved the Motion.

Katie Severn provided an update on school reopening, academic recovery, school culture, teacher retention, and student goal achievement rates.

Clowney asked for feedback from teachers on senior and junior teacher partnering. Severn offered their feedback and her perspective.

Pam Steptoe asked about junior teacher incentives for the pilot teaching program. Severn provided her perspective. Steptoe clarified about junior teacher step processes for the program.

Michela English commented on the positive teacher support of organization evolution and asked about overall morale of teaching staff. Severn offered her perspective with data for each campus.

Emily Lawson inquired about organization evolution and asked about executing the pilot teaching program. Severn offered her perspective.

Terry Eakin inquired about updates on Benning Middle Campus. Severn responded with her perspective. Mercedes Kearney seconded Severn’s input about staff changes. Kearney offered suggestions on abrupt staffing changes. Severn offered her input.

Jenny Abramson asked about staff incentives to decrease abrupt resignation and recommended financial incentives. Kearney mentioned retention bonuses for staff. Laura Maestas offered information on current contracts to incentivize staff.

Maestas offered the importance of the planning process for School Plans.

Next, Dan Englander provided budget updates. Jenny Abramson inquired about other options for a long-term budget. Englander offered how the committee provided oversight and input on maximizing financial resources. Eakin offered his perspective on the reasoning behind the budget decisions.

Lawson inquired about the cash balance. Englander offered his perspective. Clowney motioned that the Board approve the budget. Pamela seconded the Motion. In a roll call vote, each of the Board Members listed above as “Present” voted to approve the Motion. The Board unanimously approved the Motion.

Englander provided information on investment policy, real estate, and endowments. Eakin provided additional information on investment managers. English inquired whether other charter schools had experiences. Dan Fine offered his experience and perspective. Eakin and Chevy Cleaves offered their perspectives. Eakin suggested next steps. Englander offered his perspective.

Stephoe inquired about the investment plan and communication plan. Clowney clarified the committee's next steps and follow-up decision making around the investment. Englander offered September as the next meeting for voting on the investment. Terry offered perspective on investment managers. Fine offered his perspective. Terry clarified the committee's next steps.

Board does not discuss metrics during this meeting.

At approximately 6:30 pm, Patrick Clowney motioned for the Board to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel matters (pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(10)) and to consult with an attorney and maintain attorney-client privilege (pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(4)). Eakin seconded the Motion. In a roll call vote, each of the Board Members listed above as "Present" voted to approve the Motion. The Board unanimously approved the Motion.

At approximately 7:15 pm, the Board left the Closed Session and returned to Open Session. English motioned to adjourn the Board meeting. Lawson seconded the Motion. In a roll call vote, each of the Board Members listed above as "Present" voted to approve the Motion. The Board unanimously approved the Motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Maestas, Chief Executive Officer