

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

At
6515 S. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60636

Saturday, December 13, 2014
9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON

Trustees

John Stoops
Matt Bergman
Debora de Hoyos
Marcia Doane
Leslie Holling
Howard Isenberg
Bernard Lilly
John Stevenson

VIA TELECONFERENCE

Paul Adams
Tim Dugan
Kelley Kalinich

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Staff

Shinwe Shelton, Director of Operations, PECS
Tahanni Ragland, Staff Accountant, PECS
Erin Ellinger, Academic Dean, PECS
James Reilly, Univ of Chicago Board Fellow
Gene Settoon, Univ of Chicago Board Fellow

GUESTS

Senita Porter, PECS Parent

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Dick Burridge
Walter Matthews
Denise Nash
Gail Ward

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Mr. Stoops.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed, the minutes of October 30, 2014 were approved.

III. SCHOOL REPORT

As of 12-12-14 there are 499 students enrolled in PECS. There have been a total of 40 transfers. Of those, 57.5% moved out of the area, 22.5% stated academics, 7.5% stated discipline, and 2.5% stated transportation and 10% fall into the "other" category because they were siblings of transferring students.

At the time of the report, there are 57 staff members in total; 28 are teachers, of which 1 of those is SPED. This past week, a TA resigned, which leaves two TA positions open, as well as 1 SPED position. 90% of all teachers are IL licensed and 81% of core subject area teachers are certified. PECS is in compliance with more than 75% being IL licensed.

The School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP) is attained using a Spring to Spring rating for NWEA scores. PECS did not participate in NWEA Spring of 2013. PECS data was from Fall 2013 to Spring 2014, which required a statistical adjustment to our growth scores. That adjustment lowered our SQRP status. We are now a level 2 school. The School Improvement Plan is already in place and being implemented. Maureen Savas, the consultant identified at the last meeting, began working with PECS teachers as a Math Consultant for Common Core Alignment the week of December 8th. Dale Truding, the Reading and Language Arts Consultant, will begin her work in January 2015.

Teacher PMGs are now aligned to coincide with NWEA results. Last school year (the first year of the new compensation and evaluation structure), we felt PMGs did not sufficiently align with the metrics of most importance the school, namely NWEA results. As a result, 50% of each teacher's merit compensation is tied to a growth target set in consultation with the department chair for each student. Merit compensation will be tied to what percentage of those students teachers have helped to reach those targets. At a future meeting of the Board, Mrs. Johnson-Williams will give an overview of the revamp of the compensation plan. Orions University after-school program has been cancelled. Things have changed within the organization due to budget constraints.

8th grade students have begun touring the schools that they are interested in attending in the fall.

Our building was vandalized last Sunday. There were no PECS students involved, but one of the offenders was related to a PECS student. A police report was filed and the offenders were identified and arrested. The graffiti was removed and PODS are being replaced. In light of this incident, Rev. Lilly and Mrs. Shelton are collaborating to form ideas on how to engage the community to decrease the likelihood of retaliation and any future incident such as this.

Ms. Griffin requested and was awarded a grant of \$494 from The Chicago Foundation for Education! Ms. Griffin will use the small grant to purchase plastic keyboard covers to support correct typing skills and keyboarding assessments.

IV. FINANCE/OPERATIONS

On the Combined Balance Sheet, total cash and equivalents increased due to Foundation Investments. Prepaid expenses decreased because we opted to pay our utilities directly instead of through CPS. Accrued Payables increased due to the Aspire Employee Match and Utility payments to Comm Ed.

The Combined Income statement showed increased Revenue due to increased CPS per capita funding, Discretionary funds, and Foundation contributions.

The Budget comparison shows that Expenses increased due to an increase of employees from 46 in 2013 to 57 in 2014. There were also increased costs due to an increase in enrollment and the acquisition of additional assets. The budget was submitted to CPS with consultant fees characterized as Project Excellence, a non-recurring expense. Through Project Excellence we are investing funds for the betterment of our students.

Compliance Chart has been updated. We received a letter from the Office of Innovation and Incubation regarding a Tier 1 infraction from 2012-2013. The infraction occurred in 2012-2013 SY for a manual check that was written for a pension payment 3 days past the required deadline. There will be no infractions in 2014 due to a clean Audit.

V. PECS Promise

The purpose of the PECS Promise is to ensure that PECS's scholars succeed throughout their academic career and ultimately graduate from college. Kenilworth volunteers started a mentoring program 2 years ago targeting 8th graders going to high school that were interested in having a mentor. PECS Promise will expand to all upper grade students and not just the ones with interest, including 7th graders. The PECS Promise plan has three phases. Phase 1 is matriculation from PECS, Phase 2 is high school, and Phase 3 is college support.

Key factors for success of the program are parental involvement, an active alumni database and a collaborative tool for past students to connect with current students, i.e. a Face Book group.

The program will require staffing of a dedicated counselor to oversee the entire program. This individual will build upon the existing mentor program and establish relationships with high school counselors. The funding sources include but are not limited to School Funding, the PECS Foundation, Project Excellence and private donors.

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed, the implementation of the PECS Promise plan was approved.

VI. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At the last meeting the group was charged with gathering information for projected enrollment for the next few years. Initial projections continuing with 4 KG classes, by 2019 we would have 670 students with 31 classrooms. If we limit to 3 KG classes with 24 students max, by 2019 we should need 1 or 2 classrooms over the next five years. Modular space of about 4 classrooms would be ideal and is recommended with the addition of a Pre-K program. At the present time, we are maxed out on available space.

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approves the amount of \$25,000 to be used to conduct a feasibility study for expansion of this site for the purpose of adding modular classrooms. Mr. Isenberg will be the point person on contacting school architects and CPS to begin the process.

ii. GOVERNANCE

New Director Orientation meetings for Matt Bergmann, the newest trustee, will take place soon. Board Self-Evaluation forms will go out by mail.

iii. DEVELOPMENT

January 24th is the Gallery Guichard donor event. Donor letters and newsletters for December have been sent.

iv. FINANCE

Covered during the Finance Report.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered Closed Session to discuss an individual student disciplinary issue and personnel issues.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: February 26, 2014, 4:00 pm – Water Street