

**Providence Englewood Charter School  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**At  
444 W Lake St – Suite 1800  
Chicago, IL 60606**

**Thursday, December 14, 2017  
4:00p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE IN PERSON**

**Trustees**

**John Stoops  
Matt Bergmann  
Peg Cain  
Caroline Degenaaars  
Leslie Holling  
Howard Isenberg  
Walter Matthews  
Arlen Wiley  
Jason Zenner**

**TRUSTEES ABSENT**

**Dick Burridge  
Kelley Kalinich  
Bernard Lilly  
John Stevenson**

**TELECONFERENCE**

**Rona Fourte  
James Reilly  
Latasha Thomas**

**OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON**

**Staff**

**Angela Johnson-Williams, Principal, PECS  
Shinwe Shelton, Deputy Director of Operations, PECS  
Tahanni Ragland, Staff Accountant, PECS  
Sonji Jones-Cooks, Development/PECS Promise Director, PECS  
Tim Dugan, PECS Board Member on sabbatical**

## **I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Mr. Stoops.

## **II. FINANCE REPORT**

The FY18 Budget shows a comparison between the new PCTC Funding model and SBB Funding from FY17. Under PCTC, SPED allocations are already included, which removes the reimbursement method of SBB Funding. Because PECS is a single-site charter housed in a CPS facility, along with other determining factors, we will not receive additional supplemental funding. Under PCTC funding, PECS receives more than it would have under the weighted SPED funding. It may be worth it to look at the loan to consider a lump sum cash payment to principal for this year since we have cash on hand.

Task: Mr. Bergmann will check with his colleague that advised on the loan to see if the loan terms allow prepayment of principal, re-calculating the amortization schedule, and other loan terms.

On the balance sheet, overall assets have increased by 943K. Total liabilities increase is primarily due to loans payable (construction loan). Total liabilities and Net Assets have increased by 940K in comparison to November 2016. On the income statement, the Charter School Funding increase is due to the PCTC model and SPED funding. Personnel costs decrease is due to restructuring and layoffs. Regarding the budget comparison, we used to have the ability to put expenses in certain periods. You see huge variances on the budget right now in expenses because we are not able to move these expenses into the correct quarter. These variances will net in Q4. Likewise, the revenue variance in comparison is due to the new PCTC model and true-up will be payable in Q3 and Q4.

## **III. DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

PECS' Annual appeal is set to be mailed out on Monday. The main reason for the variance in fundraising from a year ago is because of the timing of the annual appeal. Mailings were sent out earlier last year. Family Giving Day was a success. We collected over 2400 food items to feed families in the Englewood community. The John Buck grant has been approved for \$10K. John Buck has scheduled a site visit to occur in May. The Annual event will be February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Marshall's Landing. We are asking board members to submit at least 2 to 3 new names and contacts to be invited to the event. The event is targeted to host 275 people. There will not be a sit-down dinner, but heavy hors d'oeuvres will be passed. We've also lowered the cost to attract younger donors. We will create a Facebook event or landing page to target the younger audience. Joan Malliband will host an event in her home to introduce PECS to a few new people that are unaware of our presence but may possibly want to get involved.

## **IV. GOVERNANCE**

Mr. Bergmann gave a brief update on the PSM matter.... Back in October, Winston Strawn gave a presentation on proposed settlement terms. Since then, the terms have been presented to PSM. We thought that we were close to settling, but discussions abruptly stopped. We have not heard from them in some time. For now, we are in a holding pattern until we hear from PSM.

## **V. NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE**

Community Investment Corporation purchased 6501 S. Justine. Set to have a walk through with them to view both 6501 and 6558, and a local developer who will give a proforma rehab budget. An agenda regarding the acquisition of the properties is TBD. PECS could rehab the properties for productive use, possibly as STLS apartments that we could cycle families through.

## **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion duly made (Mr. Isenberg), seconded (Mr. Bergmann), and unanimously passed, the minutes of October 21, 2017 are approved.

## **VII. ADDITION OF ARLEN WILEY TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

On motion duly made (Ms. Cain), seconded (Mr. Bergmann) and unanimously passed, Arlen Wiley was added to the Board of Trustees.

## **VIII. ACADEMIC REPORT – CPS Background Check**

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, we received a letter from Forrest Claypool that stated CPS was requiring all charters to sign a memorandum agreeing to use CPS' background check method. Currently, we don't do our background checks through CPS, but we use the same third-party vendor for fingerprinting and background checks. The deadline to sign was November 17<sup>th</sup>. We missed the deadline because we needed to run the information past our attorneys, who advised that the Board needed to approve the change in process. PECS requested an extension of the deadline, but was denied that extension. We were told that all schools that did not sign the memorandum were subject to their school's name being publicly released as non-cooperative to using best practices in hiring. Our attorney deduced that the Attorney General did an audit and discovered that charters were hiring people who were on CPS permanent do not hire list, hence the need to bring charters under the umbrella as far as hiring is concerned. We were able to gain insight from Mary Bradley and get some pertinent questions answered. One of the most important questions was how long it would take to get the background check returned. We also want to keep autonomy in our hiring process. We would retain the sole hiring decision however CPS would share their adjudication results. There are only five or six charters who have yet to sign.

On motion duly made, (Mr. Stoops), seconded (Ms. Thomas), and unanimously passed, the motion to sign and execute the CPS Background check and adjudication process has been approved.

## **IX. SCHOOL REPORT**

Our reading consultant has given really good feedback on where certain teachers are. Teachers are also receptive to the feedback provided by the math consultant. It is no secret that math scores need improvement. At the suggestion of the board, let's not skimp on cost as far as the math consultant is concerned. Let's use them as necessary for our benefit.

We have also obtained a Golden Apple STEM consultant. She has visited PECS 3 times so far and met with Dean Miller. She is also assisting in the planning of the Science Fair and lesson plans.

Current parent involvement is 83%. It has been suggested that we provide an incentive to increase parent involvement. A lot of the reasons that they don't show up is their work schedule. Have to figure out a way to increase parent involvement. Of the 18% of the parents who don't show, is there a correlation between academics and no shows? We should benchmark PECS to a similar school in the area and see what their numbers are in comparison.

#### **X. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. **PECS Promise – Of the 32 current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students 11 have been recommended to take the selective enrollment test. CPS recommendations are based solely on their MAP scores. PECS uses a combination of 7<sup>th</sup> grade MAP score, Grades, and performance on selective enrollment exam to determine their success on the test. According to the data, how many of our students are missing the cut scores because of the difference in our grading scale from CPS.**

**Task: Mrs. Jones-Cooks and Mrs. Johnson-Williams will work the data to determine if our grading scale makes a difference in the cut scores.**

Test prep was given for our alumni by Test prep Chicago, on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Parents were given a detailed report of how the students performed. Project Success, our first annual empowerment conference happened on the December 9<sup>th</sup>. There were 5 different speakers that addressed the students. The annual Homecoming event happened on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. There were a total of 45 alums in the building on either Friday or Saturday. 100% of eighth graders are still participating with mentors. We are looking for a new intern for the summer.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made (Mr. Bergmann), seconded (Mrs. Holling) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board is adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: Changed to Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9 a.m. (PECS – 6515 S. Ashland Ave)**