

The Children's Guild DC Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
February 9, 2015
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
TELECONFERENCE

Attendees

Meghan Cosier
John Ferguson
Dr. Kelly Linkous
Chris Zimmerman
Ragini Dalal
Jawauna Greene

Not in Attendance

Kat Calvin
Dana Baughns
Ross Litkenhous
Michelle Musgrove

Children's Guild

Dr. Duane Arbogast
Kelly Spanoghe
Dr. Ross
Steve Baldwin

Staff

Hillary Garner

Other Attendees

Sian Jones
Ashley Parker

DISCUSSION PRIOR TO MEETING

Before a quorum was met, a discussion of housekeeping matters and general updates occurred. Ms. Greene suggested that an email survey be administered to select meeting times for the remainder of the winter and spring. Ms. Jones was to administer the survey in the coming week. Ms. Jones asked if everyone was able to access Dropbox and explained that Board Packets and other documents were currently being stored there. Ms. Greene said she would send out an invitation to all Board members so that they all have general access to the online document folders.

Mr. Baldwin provided an update regarding the building lease and approval thereof by the DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB). The PCSB has agreed to accelerate its consideration of the Children's Guild DC Charter School's (CGDCPCS) lease by one month. This means that the lease will be considered and, hopefully, approved at the March meeting of the PCSB. ***Mr. Baldwin will circulate the final lease and most recent construction drawings on Dropbox.*** The final review of the drawings was to occur on 2/11. The landlord has also committed to completing the property build-out by 7/31/15.

Mr. Arbogast and Ms. Garner provided an update regarding recruitment of students and staff. Student recruitment efforts have included mailings in December and January, several open houses, and door-to-door outreach by Democracy Builders. There appears to have been a

noticeable increase in applications following the first open house. Democracy Builders' efforts do not appear to have produced an increase in applications.

Mr. Arbogast reported that the school had received approximately 135 applicants, mostly in the elementary school grades. He said that, at this point, it looks like the school will need to have two kindergartens. Mr. Arbogast noted that Tree of Life, another charter school in the neighborhood, might close and the PCSB is considering revoking the charter of the Dorothy Height school. Children's Guild staff are considering the opportunities posed by these students looking for new schools, including the possibility of "absorbing" Tree of Life if it closes. Ms. Garner said she would be attending the PCSB meeting at which the charters would be discussed.

A discussion also occurred about how to use CGDCPCS's WMATA (Metro) connection to help recruit students. Ms. Greene suggested having Democracy Builders target parents at bus stops and said she would research which stops had high percentages of parents boarding in the morning and afternoons. WMATA's bus lot is also near the school and so WMATA workers with children might be interested in enrolling their children. The possibility of adjusting before- and after-care at the school to sync with the schedules of bus lot employees was discussed. ***The Guild will develop a promotional flier to target this constituency. Ms. Greene said she would help facilitate distribution of promotional materials at the bus lot.***

Ms. Garner reported that the school had received 400 applicants from potential teachers (general and special education). These applications were currently being reviewed in the screening phase. Ms. Garner explained that teacher recruitment would be a three-phase process: (1) Phone interviews to screen and narrow applicant pool, (2) In-person interviews with applicants who get past phase 1, and (3) Panel interview with "fish bowl" activity. Ms. Garner said that they were currently building an applicant pool for each grade and would decide on how many teachers to hire in each grade after they know the age distribution of students.

Mr. Arbogast gave an update regarding developments in the Maryland and DC legislatures. The new governor of Maryland supports charter schools and there is a bill being considered in

Maryland that would affect oversight of charters, per pupil funding, and labor relations with teachers. Ms. Greene asked if we have advocates who might testify during debate of the bill.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Greene called the meeting of the Children’s Guild DC Charter School (CGDCPCS) Board of Directors (BOD) to order at approximately 6:50 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved Minutes for the regular Board meeting held January 5, 2015 were approved without objection.

Board Action:

Upon consideration of the spending resolution passed on 1/5/15, the Board considered and voted on a motion to amend the resolution so that it now reads:

“The Board approves guaranteeing the landlord’s expenditure of up to \$550,000 between the signing of the lease and the DC Public Charter School Board’s approval of the lease.”

Mr. Zimmerman brought the motion, Ms. Cosier seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously with 6 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 persons abstaining.

BOARD COMMITTEE STRUCTURE; REVIEW OF BYLAWS AND CLARIFICATION OF BOARD ORGANIZATION

This item was tabled until March.

UNDERSTANDING TRANSFORMATION EDUCATION IN A SCHOOL SETTING

This item was tabled until March.

OTHER

Ms. Greene asked Ms. Parker to develop talking points on the school for the Board members.

Dr. Ross described the Children’s Guild “Cabaret” (fundraiser) to be held at the Hippodrome in Baltimore on February 28, 2015.

MARCH MEETING

At the March meeting, the Board will discuss: (1) The school's educational program and talking points for Board members, (2) Board committee structure, (3) Nailing down meeting and retreat dates, (4) An update on the building

ADJOURN

Ms. Greene adjourned the school board meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Sian Jones, Nathan Uldricks, & Ashley Parker
Charter Board Partners Fellows