



The Children's Guild DC Charter School Board

Date: Monday, September 12, 2016
Time: 6 to 8 p.m.
Place: 2146 24th Place, Washington, DC

Minutes

Attendees

Jawauna Greene
Dana Baughns
Ross Litkenhous
Michelle Musgrove
Lesley Nesmith
Justin Reaves
Chris Zimmerman

Not in Attendance

John Ferguson

The Children's Guild

Frank Kros
Susan McFaul

Guests

Emma McGann, DC Public
Charter School Board
Alyssa Sutherland, DC Public
Charter School Board

School

Nakia Nicholson

Call to Order

Ms. Greene called the meeting of The Children's Guild DC Charter School (CGDCPCS) Board of Directors (BOD) to order at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2016 meetings was made by Mr. Zimmerman and seconded by Ms. Musgrove. The motion was approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

DC Charter Board Representatives

Ms. McGann and Ms. Sutherland with the DC Public Charter School Board will be presenting on the Alternative Accountability Framework (AAF) and the Performance Measure Framework (PMF).

Alternative Accountability Framework

Ms. Sutherland presented on the Alternative Accountability Framework (see attached). Schools are held accountable by their goals and student academic achievement expectations and through the Performance Management Framework. AAF was designed for public charter schools that strive to provide alternative programs in order to serve highly at-risk and/or high level special education students. The eligibility criteria includes:

1. Student Population – 60% of the total student population has at least one of the designated risk factors of which several new ones have been added including parental incarceration and psychiatric hospitalization.
2. Student Mission – The school mission specifically expresses their desire to serve at-risk and /or high level special education students.
3. School Ages/Grades – The school serves grades that fall within the transitional PK – 12 system with the aim of students earning a DC high school diploma.

To apply, Phase I includes submitting a letter signed by the board chair expressing the school's intent to apply for AAF by October 14, 2016. DC Public Charter School Board (DCPCSB) consults with city agencies to determine eligibility for risk factor data not available to DCPCSB in Phase II.

To date 49.5% of our students were eligible for one or more of the risk factors.

Ms. Sutherland reviewed the acceptable documentation for each risk factor. See presentation for details.

Performance Management Framework Overview

Ms. McGann stated our school would be on the Prek-8 Performance Management Framework (PMF). PMF is student progress compared to other schools; achievement through PARCC scores; parent satisfaction and attendance. Schools earn points in the various areas for the PMF. The DC School doesn't have data displayed yet since just one year has been completed. A score will be given for this year but it will not be tiered for this time. The location of the school is not considered. The results are for all charter schools across the board. Schools are given extra points for having students showing growth. Ms. Musgrove pointed out that even growth potential is impacted by location.

Ms. McGann stated the board does do "mystery shopping" by acting as a potential parent to make sure schools are doing what they are supposed to for admission.

To date the DCPCSB have been unable to come up a tiered system for alternative schools. It has been attempted but there is no fair way to do it because of the inability to do an apples to apples comparison.

The purpose of this presentation was to explain the rationale behind AAF so the board and school better understand the logic behind what has been created.

Annual Report

Ms. Nicholson stated the attached Annual Report was submitted.

Currently the school focus overall is what children need to be successful which includes whole brain teaching. Staff attended a conference on learning to focus on micro lessons. Teachers have been doing very well with trying this. Rather than teachers having individual norms there

are five that are set for all staff including custodians, cafeteria staff, administration, teachers etc. Every norm has a gesture with kinesics piece.

Ms. Nicholson felt it is important to get to know families better which would also help with knowing about risk factors. There are some risk factors, such as parent incarceration, that are tricky to ask about. She feels we will meet the requirements because we meet many of the categories.

Students from last year are helping groom new students with what the expectations are as part of the school.

Test scores are not great but if you aggregate it you can see some growth. Last year the testing environment was poor which did not allow the students to concentrate as well as they should have.

Ms. Nicholson said the new school year has started smoothly with an employee soon to be hired for the Student Support Center, a strong instructional program, teachers are being held accountable and there are tight processes to keep students on task.

Ms. Greene spoke on the annual report which shows quite a bit of data. Some areas such as the parent survey which showed only 7 need improvement. There is a parent liaison to engage parents to find out how we can assist them and to reach out.

Monthly Metrics

Mr. Kros reported 414 students are registered with 338 to date scheduled to come to our school. Unfortunately there is a difference between who is registered and who is attending. The school has 26 days until the census number locks in. The number of Level 3 and 4 students are very high. Mr. Kros gave kudos to Ms. Nicholson and the staff for not losing students this year like last. The goal is to track down the no shows to see why and if they will come. Parents are always shopping so it's a difficult number to pin down why they didn't come. In general, the enrollment in charter schools the first month is very dynamic which is why the later lock in date. If the budget census is not met there could be a reduction in staff depending on final enrollment. There is a very high number of TBAs (Therapeutic Behavioral Aides) needed with a budget of 12 but a need for closer to 30. At Level 4 we are reimbursed for TBAs but for less than that they are not covered. Of our special education students 88% are Level 4 which is good since it is reimbursed.

There were less than 10 families that didn't return from last year and that was because they moved. The majority of students who made it past December of last year did stay.

Ms. Greene recommended reaching out to the Hispanic audiences. She has some remnant space for radio ads that could be used. Ms. Nicholson does have the staff that could work with these students. On Wednesdays the TBAs go out to metro areas to distribute materials. Ms.

Greene is willing to assist with material distribution and to help record a 30 second commercial here at the school.

The board questioned the financial impact of a lower than anticipated census. Mr. Kros said that we will balance the budget but it depends how painful it might be to do so. Mr. Zimmerman added that he spoke with Mr. Baldwin and Ms. Henck about being prepared to adjust as needed. To date not all positions have been hired in the event we do not achieve the desired census so that will help with the budget adjustments.

Principal's Report

Ms. Nicholson reported under Annual Report. She thanked the board for the school supplies and books which they donated.

Mr. Kros extended an invitation for the board to come see the brain based teaching in action.

Adjourn

Ms. Greene adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m. The next meeting of The Children's Guild DC Charter School (CGDCPCS) Board of Directors (BOD) is scheduled for October 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Susan McFaul
Recording Secretary