



## The Children's Guild DC Charter School Board

Date: Monday, December 14, 2015

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Place: 2146 24<sup>th</sup> Place NE, Washington, DC

### Minutes

#### Attendees

John Ferguson  
Jawauna Greene  
Ross Litkenhous  
Michelle Musgrove  
Lesley Nesmith  
Chris Zimmerman

#### Not in Attendance

Dana Baughns  
Terry Carnes  
Ragini Dalal

#### The Children's Guild

Dr. Duane Arbogast  
Susan McFaul  
Dr. Andrew Ross

#### School

Nakia Nicholson, Principal

#### 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

The minutes from the November 4, 2015 meeting were approved.

#### Update on Closure of Aftercare Program

Ms. Nicholson reported that the school communicated to parents regarding the closure of the aftercare program and that clubs will start in January. The clubs include: hip hop, chorus, basketball (tryouts this week), cheerleading, cooking and drama. Alternative day care options with the Y and the Boys and Girls Club were also communicated. The clubs may continue for a period of time or could last all year and each club has a set number of students. Dr. Ross stated that the clubs will cost an estimated \$20K for the remainder of the year. Funds were reserved from the budget to fund this program.

#### Timeline for Enriched Physical Environment

Dr. Ross reported that the goal is to complete several key pieces of the physical environment by mid-January in preparation for parent tours as part of the recruitment for new students. These areas include the cafeteria, a temporary art display upstairs in the middle school area, the brain trail on the first floor and the student support center. It is hoped the lobby might be complete as well by January and the rest of the building by the end of the school year.

## **Marketing Plan**

Ms. Greene asked why academic achievement isn't listed as a benefit and questioned the selection of the radio station which is geared towards an older audience. Radio One has a variety of demographics and might need to be able to hit a broader audience. Ms. Nesmith felt future plans should focus on retaining students so there is not always the need for heavy recruitment. The parents who have left should be targeted to show the positive changes that have occurred.

Dr. Arbogast added that Ms. Nicholson has made school seem fun with the addition of spirit week, a book fair and other events to engage the students. Parents need to be aware that positive things are happening.

Ms. Greene has a contact that could give free advertising including television broadcast that would target the Latino population, however, one note of caution with this would be the increased need for ESOL training (English as a Second Language).

Ms. Nicholson encourages engagement for students and parents. The more engagement the more likely the parents will stay. The new receptionist is bilingual and the key is looking for competent individuals who can do the job. Also the school administration is trying to be aware of parent issues and respond and correct where possible. The principal does send out regular letters to keep communications open and it is hoped that newsletters will begin going out.

The board would like to have a marketing survey completed by parents and discussed the benefits of a quick survey versus conducting focus groups for each grade. The goal is to have the results for the next board meeting.

Ms. Nicholson will create a wish list of school needs on letterhead so board directors can send out to their contacts to generate support and interest.

## **Statistics & Test Scores**

Dr. Arbogast reported the history of the No Child Left Behind evolution to Common Core. PARCC testing is administered to show progress and the school results were shared with the board (see attached). Unfortunately the worst results by groups are special education, African American students, and those with learning disabilities which are all the school's core population. Students take the iReady test in the beginning of the year and again in January/February to help assess their progress. Reports show attendance and student population have stabilized.

The data results are very similar to Monarch Baltimore. Dr. Arbogast will compare iReady and PARCC scores to map the correlation and understand what is a measure of success. It is felt the students came in unprepared. iReady has an online component to help increase scores and it

has been proven that technology is helpful with having students learn. Chromebooks will be purchased for the school and students will be taught to better understand how to take the test.

It was suggested that activities be conducted over the summer to help students retain knowledge and ease the transition to the start of the new school year.

The tuition payment scale is based on the different level of students: Level I, II, III IV. It is important to get students coded properly and periodically assess whether the need continues or if there is improvement.

### **Principal's Report**

Ms. Nicholson reported she is at Day 25 and feels the staff is coming together and morale is improving. November was a restart and staff came together to openly discuss what had occurred and how to move forward. Teachers are getting focused, using a strategic approach to instruction and providing consistency in the classroom. The school administration has been going into three classes a day and providing feedback to teachers for improvement. The goal is to create a partnership with parents and to hold the team and students accountable

There is a local charter school that is closing and a possibility for student recruitment. It would be helpful to know what lead to the closing to better understand their issues and learn from it.

Edfest was well attended and 20 – 25 names parents expressed interest.

### **Adjourn**

Ms. Greene adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm. The next meeting of The Children's Guild DC Charter School (CGDCPCS) Board of Directors (BOD) is scheduled for January 11, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan McFaul  
Recording Secretary