



The Children's Guild DC Charter School Board

Date: Monday, February 8, 2016

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Place: 2146 24th Place, NE, Washington, DC

Minutes

Attendees

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

Not in Attendance

Terry Carnes
Ragini Dalal

The Children's Guild

Dr. Duane Arbogast
Steve Baldwin
Amanda Henck
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 6:05 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 11, 2016 board meeting were approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Items for Board Focus

Student Recruitment – Ms. Nicholson reported the Open Houses have been for both current families and prospective families. So far, we have not been able to attract any new families to the Wednesday morning, Wednesday evening or Saturday Open Houses. Dr. Arbogast stated that in myschooldc, on February 8, we had 174 families select The Children's Guild DC Charter School. Of those, 65 had made the school either their first, second or third choice, which is a high likelihood that they will be a match in the lottery. The applications tend to increase as we approach the deadline for the first round of the lottery, which is the first week of March.

Finance Committee Report – Unfortunately scheduling did not permit the committee to meet prior to the meeting so Ms. Henck will present the financial report (see attached). Ms. Henck reported that while the DC Charter School is anticipating \$7 million in revenues it also expects \$7.6 million in expenses. The financials reflect the organization is slightly ahead of budget for the first 6 months by \$104K which helps to minimize the loss.

Mr. Zimmerman feels the school is beginning to stabilize. There is a need for \$1.6 million in cash to finish out the year. If the projected 450 enrollment is met next year there will be money to pay back the loan within 3 years. Responsibility for the discussion of fundraising activities will be incorporated into the Finance Committee.

Dr. Ross stated he feels that the charter board is gaining confidence in the progress the school has made in the past 8 weeks. The board asked which metrics the charter board reviews to determine a school's success and if there is a specific financial metric that would cause such concern that they would revoke the charter. The DC Charter goals (see attached) are a list of items that will be evaluated. The backing of The Guild does provide some additional stability.

New charter schools across the board have not been meeting enrollment goals. It is thought this is due to DC schools as a whole showing improvement.

There is a ranking system which is broken into different tiers with the top schools achieving high academic performance. Since the school is in its first year it won't be rated until next year.

The addition of Pre K is something that will be evaluated to determine if it's worth considering for the future.

Charter Goals – Dr. Ross reviewed the goals (see attached) and any changes to them would need to be done within the next 20 days. Dr. Ross will work with Dr. Arbogast, Ms. Nicholson and Ms. Spanoghe to determine the resetting of the goals now that we better understand our population.

Charter Metrics – Dr. Arbogast sent out an updated metric report this afternoon. Attendance is still lower than what is hoped and should be around 90%. Suspension rates are still high and need to decrease. Enrollment has decreased but at this point it is due to housing issues not the school itself. Staffing losses have decreased since the beginning of school and Ms. Nicholson stated work continues on resetting the culture.

Grievance Policies - Dr. Ross stated that the grievance process was evaluated and there is one in place. A parent would go to the principal, then to Dr. Arbogast and then a request to the board. The grievance procedures for both parents and employees will be sent out to the board.

Gym, Playground & Library

Gym - Dr. Ross met with a connection in Ward 5 about using the gym that is about a mile from the school in the afternoon. Initially have been told no but someone from Parks & Recreation is evaluating further.

Library – Dr. Ross reported that work continues on seeking ways to build a library for students.

Donations – Information on how to donate to the school, book donation information/Amazon wish list for the school will be distributed to the board.

Project Ideas to Engage Clifton/Larson/Allen in a Day of Service

Dr. Ross reported that Ms. Caputo, board chair for TranZed Alliance, works for Clifton/Larson/Allen and is interested in conducting a day of service for the school. This could include a variety of different types of projects including stocking a pantry, creating the library, collecting books, landscaping, painting, etc. They will do basically whatever they are asked to do.

Principal's Report

Ms. Nicholson reported that overall the staff and school continue to make progress and are moving in a unified direction. The next step is to get all teachers on the same plan and doing well instructionally in the classrooms. It is time to move into the testing cycle for students. Teachers have staff development twice a week.

Adjourn

Ms. Greene adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm. The next meeting of The Children's Guild DC Charter School (CGDCPCS) Board of Directors (BOD) is scheduled for March 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan McFaul
Recording Secretary