



The Children's Guild DC Charter School Board

Date: Monday, March 14, 2016

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Place: Conference Call

Minutes

Attendees

Ebony Broadwater
Ragini Dalal
John Ferguson
Jawauna Greene
Michelle Musgrove
Lesley Nesmith
Chris Zimmerman

Not in Attendance

Dana Baughns
Terry Carnes
Ross Litkenhous

The Children's Guild

Dr. Duane Arbogast
Susan McFaul
Dr. Andrew Ross

School

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.

Introductions

Ms. Ebony Broadwater, the new parent representative, was introduced to the board.

Minutes

The minutes from the February 8, 2016 board meeting were approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Resetting Goals

Dr. Arbogast stated that discussion has taken place between TCGDC and the DC Charter Board. Targets are set by age and grade and management has asked for a further break down to help determine where students started so that growth goals are realistic for both the regular education and special education populations.

The goal was to meet or perform better than the state assessment (PARCC scores). PARCC scores have been low across the board and our level of students have consistently scored low. There are major differences across the levels and by breaking down the data into regular education and special education levels of disability would allow special education students to be assessed with a group similar to the degree of disability they experience. The majority of the goals remain the same.

There have been discussions with the public charter board to expand the definition of at risk indicators (i.e. homeless, overage and under credit, pregnant or had a child) and to broaden the category with several other indicators such as parent in jail, transient households, etc.

The first step is determining whether we qualify to apply to have this discussion on resetting the goals which will be decided on by end of March. By the beginning of April we will need to submit an appeal for a change of goals. Goals can be changed each year so if it is not done this year the request could be made for next year. Other charter schools are having similar conversations. The Charter board is interested in holding schools accountable but in a fair way.

Monthly Metrics

Dr. Arbogast reported the following:

Student body – withdrawals have slowed down and have primarily been only for those moving out of the district. Although enrollment has dropped the school has not taken new enrollments to allow the school to stabilize. The current enrollment is 268 students.

Staff resignations – only two resignations in March. During the exit interview job stability was mentioned by both as well as salary. Both staff members felt supported at the school but felt the work load was very intense. Dr. Arbogast expressed concern about staff leaving for a higher salary given the budget issues and hopes to build a culture and environment that makes teachers want to stay.

An honor roll event was held and many parents attended and were engaged.

iReady results for February was distributed which shows all of The Guild schools. A shift has occurred across the schools from students who were two grade levels behind to just one grade level behind. This shows that academically growth continues. In DC the mood in the school has changed and students want to do better. The gains in reading are more dramatic than math but still look relatively good compared to the other schools. Monarch Baltimore is similar in demographics, however, Monarch Global and Glen Burnie are very different and DC is still showing growth in comparison. The iReady testing will be done again in May/early June. It is the year end data that is used for the final comparison of growth. State testing will be conducted over the next 2 months. Given that 45% of the DC students have met the growth in iReady that testing should go smoothly but with many students one grade level below this is not a strong predictor of the state testing.

Grievance Policies

Employee grievance – The policy outlines the steps required for an employee to file a grievance and provides the chain of management to follow for appeal along with the time requirements. This policy is used for all situations through the school and gives the chance to change the ruling through the process with the board having the ultimate decision.

Parent Policy – Also outlines steps and chain of management (principal, Dr. Arbogast and ultimately the board) for filing a grievance.

Ms. Greene receives information that parents file to the charter board. It would be helpful for Ms. Greene to present adverse events to the board for awareness. There have not been many recently. If a parent has a complaint they can file to the charter board and the principal, Dr. Arbogast and Ms. Greene all receive notice. Some have no basis. This would be a good metric to track how many are received; Dr. Arbogast will add to the metric tracking. There have been none since the beginning of January but there was one earlier that was serious with a parent being banned from the facility. This has since been lifted but took time to resolve.

Mr. Ferguson would like to further review and make a final decision at the next meeting. A vote on both policies will be deferred to the next board meeting.

Recruitment

Applicants can only apply through MySchoolDC.com. In the first round, 262 parents selected The Children’s Guild (could be 1- 10 as one of their choices) and it has increased to 279 as of March. Potomac Prep is a school in Ward 5 that the charter board has decided to close. To date 10 of the last 17 who applied were their students. Last Thursday the principal from Potomac Prep welcomed our staff as a possible home for their students and teachers. Potomac Prep has 425 students. This week students will be coming to shadow students/teachers at our school. Ms. Greene will arrange for welcome back packs.

The enrollment goal is 550 students for next school year. The team feels the need to do something different to attract the families to our school given once they meet staff and see the environment they would be more likely to select our school. An example would be an ice cream social or some event to showcase the school on a Saturday such as a fair or family fun day. Any celebrities that could participate to draw people in such as players from the Redskins, Wizards, or Nats would be beneficial. Radio advertising the day of the event would push people to stop by. This event could tie with vaccinations, dental, or something that benefits the parents. Dr. Ross will put something together and bring back ideas to the board. This can be inexpensive with music, food and fun as well as booths for YMCA, SPCA, health screenings, games of chance, wheel, GEICO and other partners with giveaways. Teachers could introduce themselves and tours of the school would be provided.

Gym, Playground & Library

Gym – Progress has been made. Dr. Ross reported Parks & Recreation is permitting us to use the gym at Langdon Park North which is a mile away between 1 – 3 pm each day, 10 am – 3 pm 3x a week and is considering 5x a week from 10 – 3 pm. Ms. Nicholson is working on a draft schedule. This would provide students access to a playground, gym, football field, basketball court. Buses are available and could be used. A test drive will be conducted to see how long it

takes to load the students and drive them over. There is no liability for the school given permission from the parents has been secured and a rider will be added to the insurance to include use of the gym.

Library – up to 1,000 books collected so far. Dr. Arbogast has several boxes and a pallet of books coming from the Annapolis Rotary. The books will need to be sorted and a space is being created to house the library. The idea is to have books the students can keep if they choose to. Ms. Greene is making a challenge to board members to each donate 10 books by the next board meeting.

Principal's Report

Ms. Nicholson is ill so her report will be covered at the next meeting.

Adjourn

Ms. Greene adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm. The next meeting of The Children's Guild DC Charter School (CGDCPCS) Board of Directors (BOD) is scheduled for April 11, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan McFaul
Recording Secretary