



The Children's Guild DC Charter School Board

Date: Monday, April 10, 2017
Time: 6 to 8 p.m.
Place: 2146 24TH Place NE, Washington, DC

Minutes

Attendees

Dana Baughns
John Ferguson
Melody Giles
Cleo Green
Jawauna Greene
Lesley Nesmith
Imani Samuels
Chris Zimmerman

Not in Attendance

Justin Reaves

The Children's Guild

Dr. Duane Arbogast
Susan McFaul
Angélique McKoy
Dr. Andrew Ross

School

Nakia Nicholson, Principal
Bryan Daniels, Assistant Principal

Call to Order

Mr. Zimmerman called the meeting of The Children's Guild DC Charter School (CGDCPCS) Board of Directors (BOD) to order at 6:06 p.m. He officially welcomed Ms. Samuels as a member of the Board.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2017 meeting was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Ms. Baughns. The motion was approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Principal's Report

Ms. Nicholson shared a new format for presenting the Principal's Report. She then communicated the 2017-2018 lottery numbers to date (see attached Principal's Report). She also highlighted upcoming events for students and families including open houses in April and the Spring Extravaganza on April 29th. Ms. Nicholson asked Board members to spread the word about student recruitment to their networks. She gave a report on the increases in proficiency in academics, showing that students are making progress with an 18.5+ increase in math and 28.1+ increase in reading.

Ms. Nicholson updated the Board about a 7th grade student battling cancer and how the school is working to provide additional support to his family through a Go Fund Me page. She again asked the Board to share this information with their networks as a means to further assisting the student and family.

Ms. Nicholson highlighted that the 4th and 5th graders are participating in the Buddy Bison School Program which integrates STEM lessons and invites students to explore National Parks.

Board Education

Mr. Daniels presented on PARCC Preparation and iReady Benchmarks (refer to attached Principal's Report). He explained the academic preparatory work happening for each level from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Ms. Nicholson then mentioned that the school is trying to incorporate more general education lessons for the special education students through various teaching methods including field trips and classroom activities that ensure the less restrictive environment. She said that she will report more at the next board meeting as much of the work is just starting.

Ms. Samuels asked if there was video of the various classroom activities which could be used for a "sizzle" reel to connect to the school's Facebook page. The group agreed to deliberate on how best to publicize the school's recruitment efforts via social media.

Student Recruitment Report

Ms. Giles reported on student recruitment efforts (see attached Recruitment Report).

School Outcome Data and Grants Update

Dr. Arbogast discussed the stability, satisfaction and development of the student body (see attached monthly metric report). Dr. Arbogast referenced the book: Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond. Dr. Arbogast reported that the Mayoral budget has been released, although changes are anticipated before it is finalized. The budget calls for a 2.2% increase in the facility funding per-pupil and a 1.5% increase in the UPSFF. The school community was seeking a 2.5% to 3.5% increase in the per-pupil funding. Mr. Zimmerman mentioned that he has reached out to Councilman Grasso about the per pupil funding issue to make the School Board's voice known. Dr. Arbogast shared news about the upcoming release of the SOAR grant. Our school would be eligible for \$73,000. Ms. Nicholson added that it has been identified for use with Voyager, a reading program for students. Dr. Arbogast added that the School is also applying for a \$150,000 grant that could assist with transportation for students attending Saturday school (Out of School Time (OST)). He also mentioned that the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) is very interested in unionizing charter schools and he thinks the board may see more activity around unionizing.

Other Items

Ms. Greene mentioned that the Board would like to donate luggage to the homeless population of students to assist in transitioning from place to place with adequate luggage. She also thanked Ms. McFaul for serving as Recording Secretary as she will transition her responsibilities to Ms. McKoy.

Mr. Zimmerman brought up the need for a board retreat and the group will discuss dates via Doodle survey.

Adjourn

Ms. Greene adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm. The next meeting of The Children's Guild DC Charter School (CGDCPCS) Board of Directors (BOD) is scheduled for May 8, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Angélique McKoy
Recording Secretary