



The Children's Guild DC Charter School Board

Date: Monday, November 13, 2017
Time: 6 to 8 p.m.
Place: 2146 24TH Place NE, Washington, DC

Minutes

Attendees

John Ferguson
Melody Giles
Cleo Green
Imani Samuels
Chris Zimmerman

Not in Attendance

Dana Baughns
Jawauna Greene
Lesley Nesmith
Justin Reaves

The Children's Guild

Duane Arbogast
Steve Howe
Angélique McKoy
Nakia Nicholson

School

Veronica Crawford
Bryan Daniels

Call to Order

Mr. Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2017 meeting was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Ms. Giles. The motion was approved.

Chief Academic Officer's Report & Board Education *(See attached combined report)*

Ms. Nicholson gave a brief overview of the NAREN-TranZed Conference in October where the entire organization came together to receive professional development around Trauma and Transformation. She expressed that it was an enjoyable experience learning about how childhood trauma affects children and how educators and others who serve at-risk youth can learn from one another. She also shared the latest I-Ready results. Ms. Nicholson cited that the reading scores are a bit higher than the math scores, which is being addressed through professional development of the teaching staff. She talked about the implementation of Grade Level Town Halls and Curriculum Shifts through two literacy programs: Language Live (5-8th graders) and Read Well (K-3rd graders). Ms. Nicholson also explained that the two programs will be used for intervention or curriculum replacement. She informed that the social workers and behavior coaches are working through town halls and CARE teams to provide additional social and emotional supports to the student body.

Ms. Nicholson provided Board Education around the concept of Close Reading which allows students to read a specific piece of text three times, then formulate certain questions using the Whole Brain Teaching techniques. She explained this is a shift in teaching for the newer staff members, but something that is familiar with the more seasoned educators at the school. Lastly, she explained how Close Reading is a true focus on literacy through information and literature, differentiating between the

Readers, Thinkers, and Distracting Voice; while also focusing on the specific concepts to take students to higher mastery levels.

Principal's Report *(See attached combined report)*

Mr. Daniels gave an overview on staffing updates at the school. He informed that there are a few openings in various teaching areas including science, special education resources, occupational therapy, and therapeutic behavioral aides. Mr. Howe informed the Board, on behalf of The Children's Guild, that the Human Resources department is bolstering the recruiting function to bring on additional recruiters to meet the mandate of bringing qualified, experienced candidates to the roles. Mr. Daniels also alerted the board that the Title 1 focus starts in December. He then explained that the administrative team, as part of monthly focused professional development, offers teacher's feedback based on informal and formal classroom observations. He also mentioned that the staff is focusing on more educational field experience for 6th graders through Project Based Learning (PBL). Mr. Daniels said that the staff is looking to continually grow the school culture through mentorship opportunities, PBIS committees, sports activities, and various town halls.

Community Liaison Report/Parental Involvement Report *(See attached combined report)*

Ms. Giles expressed gratitude on behalf of the students who received snack bags earlier in the month, courtesy of Mr. Ferguson's corporate donation. She also informed that an organization is donating brand new hats and coats to some students. Additionally, some learners will volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club in preparation for Thanksgiving, and will receive 25 turkey baskets. Ms. Giles also asked that the Board Members donate items for Thanksgiving baskets as well to give to students. She highlighted other social events occurring in November including Muffins with Moms and Donuts for Dads and extended invitations to the Board. She mentioned that the Parent Advisory Board is meeting on December 5th and that Board members are invited to attend. Lastly, she informed that all students who needed DC-One cards now have them.

Other Items

Mr. Zimmerman offered a proposal of moving the board meetings to an every other month schedule to bolster board engagement at board meetings and school events. Dr. Arbogast also shared the results of the 2017 DC Public Charter School Board Quality Report *(report attached)*.

Adjourn

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

Submitted by:

Angélique McKoy
Recording Secretary