



The Children's Guild DC Charter School Board

Date: Monday, March 14, 2018
Time: 6 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.
Place: The Children's Guild DC Public Charter School
2146 24th Place NE Washington, DC 20018

Minutes

Attendees

John Ferguson
Melody Giles
Cleo Green-Clark (over the phone)
Imani Samuels (over the phone)
Chris Zimmerman
Justin G. Reaves

Not in Attendance

Jawauna Greene
Dana Baughns

School

Ashley Posey
Nakia Nicholson
Bryan Daniels

Call to Order

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

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval

Minutes were approved

School Report

The meeting started with Principal Daniels narrating a short video of current events that took place during the months of January and February. The video clips captured students participating in school wide activities along with staff who provided support.

Board Literacy was based around an 8th grade presentation that focused on a literacy and life skills. Three 8th grade students and their teacher were present for the presentation. The teacher, Ms. Carter, explained what students were learning during class and provided board members with an overview about the learning targets. Ms. Carter also provided members with an overview of the project goals and introduced key skills that students were expected to master by the end of the project. Each student was introduced as a project manager and provided members with an overview of the project they were responsible for. Some of the projects included researching and analyzing the housing market, decision-making, and effective budgeting. Students provided members with a sample worksheet and required board members to participate in the learning process. Some of the board members had an opportunity to share out and interacted with students throughout the presentation. Following the presentation, Principal Daniels and Chief Academic Officer, Nakia Nicholson provided board members with insight about the growth of each student individually. Each student was then provided an opportunity to share their unique experience as a student of The Children's Guild. Each student expressed their love for the staff and overall school. All of the students spoke about their social, academic, and behavioral challenges they faced prior to attending The Children's Guild and how the school has positively impacted their outlook on life and mindset about learning.

Chief Academic Officer Nicholson presented on the Five Pillars of Learning for the school year, which are academics/art integration, professional development, college and career readiness, school safety/climate, and family/community engagement. Chief Nicholson explained to the board that the school continues to focus around each pillar to improve student outcomes. Of the five pillars, Chief Nicholson explained that three of the five have been very successful throughout the year and the goal is to continue building on what works well and make continuous improvements around the other pillars. Priorities for the 2018-19 were shared with board members and included efforts around building a gifted and talented program for students who were identified as advanced/on grade learners, inclusion of a reading intervention program for struggling readers in grades K-8, developing a parent university to improve engagement between families and the community, creative use of Title I funding to address literacy gaps, inclusion of a mindfulness program to support students and staff of the TCGDC community, and taking advantage of grant opportunities as a school community.

A brief overview of the I-Ready scores were provided to board members, which showed an increase in math and literacy across grade levels. Board Chair Zimmerman inquired about 3rd grade math proficiency rates in comparison to the other grades and Chief Nicholson explained that the third grade team experienced a loss of instruction due to their math teacher resigning after approximately two months with little notice. In addition, Chief Nicholson explained that the class was later collapsed due to a shallow talent pool to replace the staff member and that the current teacher is provided co-teaching support during the math block by the instructional math coach.

Principal Daniels provided board members with an overview of the staffing needs of the school. During the month of January and February, one teacher resigned and one administrator was terminated. Due to the confidential nature of personnel compliancy, details were not discussed. Principal Daniels explained how the school has made shifts to accommodate vacancies and shared that the school continues to seek ways to attract highly qualified staff to the school. Board Chair Zimmerman expressed that he was concerned about the sense of urgency the organization had around human capital and would present concerns to Dr. Ross on behalf of the board. Climate and culture data was presented and the enrollment and target data was shared. The principal shared the names of schools that 8th grade students had applied to or had been accepted to with board members. Some of the schools were Ron Brown College Prep, Duke Ellington HS, Richard Wright Public School, Friendship Collegiate PCS, National Collegiate PCS, and Dunbar High School.

As a part of the expansion efforts, Chief Nicholson and Principal Daniels shared information about a potential partnership with the Apple Tree community, which serves Prek3-4 students. The visit is scheduled to take place on March 20th from 7:45 – 11:00 a.m. Principal Daniels provided an update on the playground development, potential partnership with Echostage, and the challenges & proposed solutions. Principal Daniels explained the everyday challenges that the students face with not having adequate recreation space and explained how the partnerships would be beneficial to students. Board members expressed an interest to continue moving forward on acquiring memorandums of understanding for the proposed partnerships, but also expressed concerns around community perception as it related to Echostage usage. The board voted in favor of moving forward on discussions to expand and share building space. Principal Daniels requested that the board support the school with MS uniform donations. Two board members provided donations and others committed to honoring the request.

Ms. Giles, Parent Liaison and Board member, shared insight about the homeless population at the school. She explained how support from the board assists with helping staff meet the needs of the children being served. Following this, Ms. Giles updated the board on student recruitment and community outreach efforts.

Adjourn

Mr. Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m. The next meeting of The Children's Guild DC Charter School (TCGDC) Board of Directors (BOD) is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2018.

Submitted by:

Ashley Posey
Recording Secretary