



The Children's Guild DC Charter School Board

Date: Monday, October 14, 2019
Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Place: 2146 24th PI NE, Washington, DC 20018

MINUTES

Attendees

Imani Samuels (Board Chair)
John Ferguson
Melody Giles
Cleopatra Green-Clarke (phone)
Leslie Nesmith (phone)
Joan Payne (phone)
Chris Zimmerman (phone)

Staff

Brandon Turner
Bryan Daniels
Kiara Hargrove
Jenny Livelli (phone)
Nakia Nicholson
Brandon Turner

Call to order

Ms. Samuels called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval

Ms. Giles made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Previous minutes approved.

Principal's Report *(see attached documentation)*

Mrs. Nicholson spoke about the I-Ready data that has been released. The Instructional coaches have developed a plan to have push in and pull out services for our students who are having challenges in areas of math and reading. Mr. Daniels stated that as of October 5, 2019, our current enrollment is 339 which includes 8 non-public students for an in seat attendance of 331. During this year's enrollment we had a number of students come from charter schools that have closed. Mr. Daniels and Ms. Giles spoke about the loss of our students.

Attendance rate was at 96% in the month of August and September. Although there has been a rise in our children riding metro rather than our actual buses, the children are eager to come to school. There are only three other schools in the district that provide transportation.

Over the past few weeks, there have been several visitors. The school hosted an ANC Meeting with ANC Commissioner, Jackie Manning, coming to visit and tour the building, meet some students and staff, and visiting the church garage location to see the construction site of the gym.

Staffing Updates

Mr. Daniels stated two teachers resigned because they were not prepared to handle the level of teaching needed at our school. The leadership team has divided the responsibility of these classrooms amongst themselves to ensure that all of the students' needs are met. As of now, the leadership will continue to lead these classrooms.

Enrollment Report

Mr. Daniels spoke about enrollment per grade level. The lower grades have a smaller population of students compared to the middle school which has a larger population of students. Mr. Daniels discussed the retention of returning students that have been here since the school began, the new students as a result of several school closures and word of mouth about the school and it's Special Education Program. There were a handful of students who did not return due to relocation to another state and there were some that did not return as a result of parents not wanting their children attending an identified SPED school. There are no other schools in the district that serve the population that we serve from Kindergarten to 8th grade.

Mr. Turner discussed the marketing and branding for the upcoming year. There will be an event called EDFest on December 14, 2019. The team will be meeting weekly to discuss recruiting moving forward. The majority of our students are coming from Ward 7 and 8 and we are looking to bring more students from Ward 5 to our school for the upcoming year. Mr. Turner discussed the partnership with Howard University students within our school and the impact that it will have moving forward.

DC Work Plan Review & Progress Report *(see attached documentation)*

The annual report overview reflects the standing and the trajectory of the school is in a positive position. The Public Charter School Board members conducted a site visit to see school programming on a regular school day given the known barriers of our student population. In the first year, the school was not deemed eligible to be considered for the Alternate Accountability Framework as we did not meet the criteria, although in the school's second year we were deemed eligible. Ms. Lane discussed the monthly meetings being held for all alternative schools collaboratively because it is felt that the requirements are not appropriate to hold the schools accountable. The new framework will be voted on during this meeting.

Motion

Dr. Payne made a motion to have a working session, Ms. Giles seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Ms. Lane stated on November 18, 2019, we will receive the written report from PCSB, with two weeks to correct errors and resubmit to them. On December 16, 2019, PCSB will vote about the charter renewal and the continuation of the garage approval from the ANC Commissioners. The final report will be provided to the school once reviewed by PCSB.

iMat team is meeting monthly to track the accountability and compliance required by PCSB and ensure materials have been uploaded and submitted on time. We will be finalizing our application submission to OSSE for the teachers to receive the Special Education certification. There are some teachers attending a program at KIPP and one at George Washington University. The organization has been doing some recruiting efforts for new staff. The monthly audit is clean.

Adjourn – Ms. Samuels