

**ST. COLETTA SPECIAL EDUCATION PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
1901 Independence Avenue SE, Washington, DC**

Board Meeting

March 8, 2023

6:30 pm

Hybrid: in-person at school and via ZOOM

In Person- Kaiheem Mason, Josh Lewis, Peggy O'Brien, Francis Campbell, Shanta Bryant, Janel Brown, Mike Rodriguez, Amy Warden, Michael Olivarri, Chloe Harrell

ZOOM Participants- Carla Ware-Easterling, Adele Robey, Chip Henstenburg and Rebecca Hill

Meeting Minutes

Call to order and general welcome

Overview and reminder of open meeting protocols and procedures

--Chloe Harrell, Kaiheem Mason, Josh Lewis

Welcome to Janel Brown, new board member, and introduction of all board members • Welcome to

members of the public and open the floor for their questions or comments •

Questions or Comments from the General Public attending the meeting this evening

Amanda Soper- Commented on the communication of the open meetings via email and not the website as public charter schools publicize their meetings using various methods to announce the meetings ahead of time.

Beck Giallella- Commented on the Open Meeting platform.

Approval of minutes of previous board meeting (1.11.23)

Peggy suggested a vote to accept the meeting minutes, motion to accept the minutes F. Campbell, second by S. Bryant, members voted to accept the meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as written at 6:54 PM.

Mission Moment

The State of School: Highlights and Challenges

Ms. Warden began her report with feedback from the recent efforts of Parent Engagement, currently at 50% of parent meetings completed, positive feedback of being connected with the child and understanding information. Special Needs Group Training with Shared Horizons- Guardianship/Trust, Department on Disability Services

(30) family members attended training. Spanish Speaking families participated, staff (Judy Acevedo and one additional staff person) assisted in translation/support allowing families to connect with other families was valuable. Title I LEA funding to support training, childcare was provided, staff support the services and meals were provided. Individual Parent training, a stipend is provided to support meals and materials. Crisis Management training were completed encouraging students/staff to feel safe in the classroom setting. Function of Behaviors, the staff role to implement behaviors in the classroom setting.

Currently engaged in Open Enrollment, goal of 250 students with (70) applications received. The majority of applications are for House One.

Challenges are staffing and recruitment. Staff with training or expertise are challenges, teacher recruitment/ retention, current need is for 17 teachers, 10 parent educators, Social Worker, PE Teacher, 13 students are graduating this year. Currently have a highly trained interim teacher or paraprofessional with point of contact educator to allow the classroom to run smoothly. Recruiting efforts HR has attended several job fairs, 11 resumes from George Mason University. ParaProfessionals job fair brought in ten new staffers with a potential for an additional three staffers to join the St. Coletta Team. Mr. Mason stated that hires are extended offers in April 2023.

Chip inquired as to the accountability framework with recruitment efforts. Ms. Warden responded that progress data is linked to strategic goals, ensuring that the team is present to continue data collection, consistent implementation of programming, strategic goals for teachers are not present and do not impact the strategic goal.

Janel inquired as to retention impact. Ms. Warden stated that incentives are presented due to, intent to return letters are disseminated in March.

Headlines from School—Amy Warden, SCSEPCS Principal

Four suspensions (2) related to weapons and (2) students engaged in a physical altercation. Educational neglect case, concern of injury while attending school and lack of documentation regarding injury. The doctor has recommended that the child be sent to school, however the child has not returned to school to date.

Financial report—Michael Olivarri, CFO

Reported revenue for the remaining school year, per student funding, deferred revenue, any revenue due to management fee 3.5 billion. On page 5 of the written report indicates a net loss of \$758,000. The revenue is made up of 90% per student funding and positive cash flow for the first half of year. Revenue is not guaranteed, Development revenue, Cares Fund- expenses are incurred up front, funds come in at a later date with \$350,000 spent for training. Reimbursement from Cares ACT \$266,000. Salaries are slightly under budget at this time. Contracted rate is slightly higher for staff. Use of contracted services make up the difference for educational needs. Utilities are higher which lends to the current constraints, the budget will remain as written as we are currently on target.

Overall progress report—Mike Rodrigues, CEO

Funding Advocacy- strategic plan, DEIA initiative, selected a partner. Long Term

compensation planning partner identified. Goal is to set up a compensation structure, performance management based compensation. Review rates, compare to the external market, extract basic information to develop a more user friendly compensation program, benchmark against other organizations, identify deliverables, and comply with all employment laws are the focus of this effort. Performance based compensation Plan development.

2022-2023 LEA Board Update (received from DCPCSB on March 3, 2023)

Peggy reported the PCSB sent reports addressed to the Boards regarding Community Complaints, Compliance Review, Fiscal Year Procurement, Mid Year Data Snapshot, and update of goals. We will schedule a date to review the report and discuss the topics identified.

Update on progress toward appropriate and stable funding

--Mike Rodrigues, Josh Lewis

Mr. Rodrigues reported that we need to bring in more resources (budgeted 750,000 loss). The current Funding formula is not appropriate for St. Coletta. The presentation of the budget at the beginning of the year indicates OSSE withdrew from MOU (funding formula does not meet the need for our students) actions taken to rectify the situation were not successful, provision of great quality of services daily to the students requires additional funding and GAP Funding was 1.5-2 million per year (currently needed). The opportunity to meet with Phil Mendelson, to provide a presentation of the school was well received, the team was invited to review the packet of information, as it is time to review budgets for DC Council during the Education Oversight Hearing last Wednesday. Mike and Josh presented testimony- St. Coletta is the only school that can service the students in the District. (Reminder of paying for out of state placements put the District Ed. Budget in the red). Meeting on Friday for outreach with Council Members. Adequacy study taking a look at the current funding formula, review for adequacy of student populations and schools. Board requested in writing to be included in the next Adequacy Study to allow experts to share opinions and views (summer 2023). Seeking to get this resolved through the upcoming budget process. Another means of funding is Equivalency Funding (50 % DCPS /50% PCS) which provides retroactive payment and compensation for educators.

Update on board development

Status of Education Board Partners

Peggy O'Brien reported has been acquired by Bell Weather, Shireen has moved onto Sunshine and Sage, however, there is a piece of the original contract with her such as more Board Members (2-3), needing an uneven number of Board Members.

Status of new board members

Pending need of 2-3 members

Status and expectations of Nominating and Governance Work

Shanta and Adele reported work on Bylaws and reached out to Shireen to work on the next set of goals. Information of Committee Members and Term Limits.

New Business

A word from Peggy O'Brien- Ms.O'Brien has been on the Board for a long time, since 2004, her plan to end term at the end of the school year.

Other new business

None reported during this session.

Call to adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, presented to each member- All agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2023 at 6:30 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla', written over a horizontal line.

Carla Ware-Easterling

Secretary SCPCSB