

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

Board Meeting

July 12, 2023

6:30 pm

Hybrid: In-person at school and via zoom

Meeting Minutes

Welcome, roll call, and call to order 6:33 PM

Janel Brown and Kaiheem Mason were not in attendance for this meeting.

In Person- Peggy O'Brien, Mike Rodrigues, Michael Olivarri, Amy Warden, Rebecca Hill, Chip Henstenburg, Adele Robey, Shanta Bryant, Frances Slaughter, and Francis Campbell.

Hybrid- Carla Ware-Easterling participated through ZOOM.

Approval of the minutes for the previous board meeting (May 10, 2023). Changes or suggestions to be made. Motion to approve the minutes was passed.

Period of open comments and questions from members of the public with a maximum of fifteen minutes for the public to make comments. Lacey- declined to comment.

\$1 million for St Coletta in Mayor's Budget(!), and related matters – Mike Rodrigues, CEO

Mike reported the following information as to the budget from the DC Council passed in June 2023, it represents the idea to develop a comprehensive plan to increase funding. St. Coletta will be included in the study, reintroduction of the school to the public and DC Council and Charter School Alliance. Preparation has been done for the Adequacy Study, OSSE, and obtaining reimbursement of funding is important. Return to In Person events, sponsorships, fundraising, and other activities will be implemented.

Strategic Plan update, goal to formally review achievements to outline more specific goals for next year, to be presented a calendar. DBI initiative, sessions with Alexandria, Rockville, internal steering group with a goal to discuss racial equity and diversity. This has been well received by the staff. Feedback from the staff has been allowing information to be put on the table.

Josh Lewis reported a survey to all Board Members, September 2023 a three-hour DEI training session with a combined Board session with dates pending.

Questions or Comments

The State of the School: Highlights and Challenges

Headlines from School—Amy Warden, SCSEPCS Principal

The Senior Prom was held on Friday, opportunities for students to go shopping for Prom Attire, theme was Masquerade Sneaker Ball, some students had dates, makeup and hair was addressed during the day. Corsages and decorations in the gymnasium were provided. A luncheon was held prior to the dance, a photo booth captured memorable moments and some students presented prom proposals.

Planning for the next school year, orientation, professional development, enrollment, and foundation educational strategies (basic education strategies).

Current Enrollment is 248 students. Current waitlist, recruitment of students, some students leaving due to the need for more restrictive placements (8-10 students). Transportation issues at the beginning of the year impacted enrollment. Nurses on the buses also impacted the ability for some students to attend.

Staffing and Recruitment

The current need is for (8) teachers for the next school year. St. Coletta has signed on with a new agency for teacher recruitment. Hiring (6) Speech Language Pathologist, (18) Paraprofessionals/ paraeducators, Social Worker and (2) Occupational Therapists. Pending Job Fairs on/off-site. Two new Assistant Principals Antoine Rainy and Andrea Williams have accepted the positions and begun working with the school team in the position. BCBA's have been hired (2) and (1) Speech language Therapist- SLP.

PCSB has recently voted to maintain the Alternate Accountability Framework with the mission.

Graduation is Friday July 14, 2023, (12) students will be leaving the school and moving onto other pursuits. The ceremony will begin at 12:30 PM and conclude at 2:30 PM.

Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2023

End of the Year Celebration will occur the last week of July 2023.

Last Day of School is July 28, 2023

Financial Report—Michael Olivarri, CFO

The financial report for June does not coincide with the financial reporting timeline, thus at the next Board Meeting the formal report will be presented. personnel makes-up 72 % of costs. Continue to trend to work our way away from the impact of the pandemic. Attempts to control costs, seeking Gap Funding as revenue is up 10%, One Million Supplemental Funding, 17 dollar per hour minimum wage increase began on July 01, 2023. Major expenses catering 14% increase, budget assumes contracted services highs and lows, review of supplies (costs), salary reimbursement, retroactive payments for salaries from District of Columbia Government. Revenue 5.05% increase in the UPSFF, Medicaid reimbursement of 60% on the dollar, centralized purchasing- push for fiscal year 2024. 7.65% of teachers receive an increase in salary for persons currently employed.

Additional comments—Mike Rodrigues, CEO

Questions and Answer period

Board Development Status

Nominating and Governance Work--Shanta Bryant and Adele Robey

Review of revised bylaws

The Board members reviewed the updated bylaws with feedback of the need for consistent language in accordance with other Boards.

Slate of Officers for the next school year

Josh Lewis has a pending move into the Chairman Position as P. O'Brien will no longer participate in the Board. Shanta Bryant requires a term limit for her position. Clarification of Chair/Vice Chair or President/ Vice President of the Board. Suggestion of seeking observance of the PCSB terminology.

New board members

A Potential Board Member has been identified, maintaining compliance with the odd number of Board Members, as P. O'Brien will no longer participate in the Board proceedings.

Call to go into closed session in order to discuss personnel matters (in accordance with DC Official Code 2-575)

Call to adjourn public meeting A motion was made to close the Public Session at 7:54 PM

Closed session- Notes are not available.

Call to adjourn the closed session.

A motion was made to adjourn the session at 8:30 PM

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 13, 2023

This meeting is governed by the DC Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at

opengovoffice@dc.gov.



Carla Ware-Easterling
Secretary