

Board Meeting – January 17th 2013

Present:

Patricia Bramwell
Marlena Mondesir
Angel Charriez
Joshua Morales

Absent:

Victor Riviera
Leticia Theodore
Michael Nieves

Late arrival:

Cecilia Russo (6:08)
Joeseeph Sciame (6:11, via phone) (Joe
leaves at 6:44)
Kevin Nesbitt (6:27)

Guests:

Kashani Stokley
Karen Jones
Valerie Moniz
Vicky D'Anjou-Pomerleau

1. Call to Order at: 6:05

It does not appear that we have a quorum, so we will not vote on anything.
Quorum achieved at 6:27.

2. Review and Approval of minutes of November 15, 2012

There will be no vote because we have not received the notes for the last meeting.

3. Update on School Status

a) Interim Executive Director: Biggest Concern is Financial: Deficit for this year is 631K. Some expenses are deferred until next year, we will carry next year's surpluses to cover this year's deficit. Next year we should be able to have about 300-400K in surpluses, which will be used to recoup expenses. This means we need to do Fundraising. For the State Stimulus Fund grant we applied for, we got 67K of the 199K we asked for. Problem is revenue, not expenses. Right now, we have a 10:1 teaching ratio. Things we need to look at is attendance and suspensions.

b) Academic Leader: K has made the progress they need to do. 1st grade has done progress but the teachers have been doing their own assignments so this is skewed. I asked them to go back to the path so we can accurately track their data. In 2nd grade, they are ramping up. In 3rd -5th grade, there was miscommunications between data and instruction and teaching and the assessment. Because the state has not issued the current test, it was not until November that they begun doing it. In December I gave them prescriptions of using the program. At the end of the week, they were going to use, there were only 2-3 assignments, so this is why the progress does not show. It is not giving the full picture.
Strategies for Saturday school: Initially designed for students to meet with teachers once a month, but it's not enough time on task. We will do Saturday school 3x in February, 3x in March, and once in April. We need 10 teachers at a time, and they are contractually obligated.

On lack of stamina: I am tutoring 7 kids in 5th grade because test is significantly different from what they have done in the past. They are reading short stories, and they 6-8 questions per stories, and 4-5 to compare 2 stories. By the end of it, they were spent. They thought there were too many questions to answer. They didn't have the desire to keep it

going. In a week, we've gone through 1 poem and 2 stories. That's 7 kids out of 44 in 5th grade, we are working during lunch.

c) Support Services: On Attendance: We made calls to all students with absences below 90%. Most of them were because of sickness (particularly in K). How sick they are? I don't know. We do have other reasons, a family went on an extended vacation. Fourth grade had the highest attendance. We talked about the teachers to learn about their strategies. We're being more consistent about recognizing scholars who are prompt and present. Still brainstorming ideas, so attendance should be going up.

AC: Have we seen a flu epidemic? JM: No.

On Suspensions: It is the same kids. We have 8 students who have had more than one suspension. Five of them have IEPs. We have given a PD yesterday on the causes of the behaviors, instead of addressing the behavior. Since yesterday, teachers have been coming to us, we've been scheduling meetings with teachers, and developing plans. 5th grade is a big focus of ours, 2nd grade also is. In 5th grade, the issues are changing. We are matching our interventions to their needs.

CR: How many of the fifth graders were "ours"? My concern is what did we do from day one? KJ: Two of the 5th graders has been with us since Day One. Others came in last year. Looking at "The Citizen", the student newspaper. Mr. Brown is facilitating. Our aim is to have one every month, centering on character traits. Next month we are focusing on Kindness. Every month students from 4 & 5th grade are selected to write. Starting next week, Character Ed is beginning. Ms. Padilla and Rogers have developed activities and resources for the teachers.

Rolling out many initiatives. An NYPD officer will be visiting classrooms 2-5 to change the perception of police officers, to show that they are there to help.

PB: Did we make any connection with the Fire Department? When we called earlier, they were focusing on Hurricane Sandy.

Parent Engagement: We will be having workshops.

d) Operations: Bus strike started yesterday, the only students affected were our IEP students. On Tuesday we gave out the Metrocards. They still have them in case our drivers decide to strike. We have about 10 students with IEP bus service.

Lottery application started Dec. 1 and will go on until April 1st. Right now we have 42 for K. Our wait list right now is very low. We will replenish during applications, and through the Charter Center.

AC: Concerning Emergencies, are we prepared? KS: We do fire drills. We have other drills in place that we have not done. We have procedures for lock-down. We are having a conversation, we didn't want to have it so soon after Sandy Hook.

JM: We have to do a security analysis. We need a security camera overhaul.

CR: How would people be notified about lock down?

JM: We have our phone system.

PB: IS it in our Handbook?

KS: No, it cannot be released.

Angel Charriez departs at 7:03

4. Report of Permanent Committees to the Board of Trustees

a) Executive Committee

b) Education Committee: CR asks about the winter break work packets given to the students. Was there any feedback on that?

One of the persons I had contacted from FIT. Kevin also asked people from John Jay for tutoring, and he will have a meeting. KN: The problem is that we do not have an education program. CR: I will try St.-Francis.

c) Financial Committee/Operations Committee

d) Engagement/Outreach: KN: Major development is what we talked about in Education. It was outreach to partners.

JM: Are we ok with the letter to Jeffries? (yes.)

e) Development: Victor was support to cover. KN: Have we looked into someone with a development background to add to the board?

5. Old Business

6. New Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Next meeting on February 28th at 6pm.

Cecilia motions to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:11.