

Governance Board Meeting
July 31, 2017

Board Members Attending: Kristina Eisenhardt, Maria Ebrahimji, Cher Brister, Saddat Abbas, Stephanie Dean

Joining by Phone: Leslie Jensen-Link

Administration attending: Ehab Jaleel, Cherisse Campbell, Kristi Davis

Meeting was called to order at 8:09 am.

Academic Update:

Milestones Update, see slides for presentation.

Overall, for state and county standards, we are meeting the credentialing requirements for the 3rd year in a row, so we will pass and maintain our credentials for this year. Also, 10% increase in year over year performance.

Character:

Last year EL selected us a school where “strong crew” and character program is working, and they have partnered us with other schools to identify best practices.

Some concerns from our student engagement survey last year – a couple of ethnic groups demonstrated a 10% decrease in # of students who were either ambivalent or do not agree.

Attendance:

Last year 50% of our students in Elementary school missed 6 or more days of school.

Researching to identify opportunities to improve this statistic. Middle school attendance was much higher.

Question from Cher Brister – have we done an IEQ (Indoor Environmental Quality) study to determine if there is anything in the HVAC system that is making staff/ students sick? Ehab answered – we did a study about 5 years ago and found very little (dust etc) in the HVAC system.

Executive Director report:

Shared Staffing plan:

New Asst. Principal – Kay Frey

Rest of the staffing plan will be published to the board

Charter Replication: GCSA has approached us about the possibility of replicating our school for a 2nd location. GCSA wants to meet with the board in the August meeting to present to us. The Charter School Growth Fund wants to visit in September.

This would potentially open us up to more funding, based on having 2 schools or more. There is already funding that may be available from the Walton Foundation if up to 50% of our kids are from APS district, and the Bill/ Melinda Gates foundation.

Benefits:

- Growth Opportunities for staff
- This location becomes the benchmark school for the others
- Establishes our name and brand in the Atlanta community

Possible Risks:

- May take a lot of time from Ehab and Cherrisse
- This is an accreditation year for us..
- Would need to review the board structure.

GCSA is being very aggressive about moving this forward for us – we will need to get up to speed quickly about our position on this. Ehab: “This is a seismic shift for us, and will likely take most of the fall to get to this decision. The entire board will need to be involved in developing this plan.”

Saddat Abbas left the physical meeting at 9:00 am, intends to re-join by phone.

Advanced Ed SACS - Getting ready for our 2nd renewal. Interviews with the board, staff, students, and culminates with a site visit in February. Our current instructional coach was on the accreditation committee last time, so she will be able to help us prepared.

FCS Compliance Checklist:

2 sections in this:

1. What Governance Board is responsible for
 - a. Approve a preliminary budget for the next year (July 31st)
 - b. End of Year Statements (July 31st)
 - c. Others shared through the Exec. Dir. report.
2. What the Exec. Director is responsible for

Ehab will be updating us throughout the year to keep us posted as to progress of this compliance.

Saddat Abbas has joined by phone.

Board Calendar:

Kristina requested input for the best day to meet. Current agreement:

Thursday Sept 28th, 8 am

Friday, October 20th, 8 am

For Board Retreat - Sun Aug 27th, 12 - 5 pm

For Board Training - look at a Saturday in Aug/ Sept/ Oct to determine when we are available for the whole board training.

June Financials:

Ended the year with \$384k net income, compared to last year ending at -\$84k.
We have met the debt service ratio target of 1.1, with an ending ratio of 1.37.
About \$20k spent on the cafeteria renovation to date.

A vote was called for approval of the Finances:

Unanimous approval was given. (Voting: Leslie, Saddat, Cher, Maria, Stephanie, Kristina)

FY18 preliminary budget was shared.

Approval was given by: Saddat, Cher, Maria, Stephanie, Kristina, Leslie

Governance Terms and Chair-Elect:

Kristina's board and chair term have expired. She has been asked by the governance committee to stay on for another year. The board needs to vote for Kristina to remain, and for her to remain as chair. A vote was called. The vote was unanimous in favor of both.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.