

PPPCS, Inc. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2021

7 pm Meeting held by Zoom

Members Attending: Sarah Sandoval-Mohapatra (presiding), Jenna Adams (SAL-PPPCS), Ankit Aggarwal, Astrid Bharath-Pierce (PAL-PPPCS), Candace Caraco (recording), Raven Cooper (SAL-CHPCS), Kim Francois, Pat Irish, Tasha Johnson, Natasha Perry (TAL), Chris Scott, Lauren Stutzman, Julie Neale Taylor (PAL-PPPCS), Anais Roman (SAL-CHPCS), Lazette Wells; *ex officio*: Jane Lindenfelser

Absent: Charles Conner, Lucia Islas, Charletta McLean Paul Rishar

Staff and Guests: Chad Kramer, principal of Patterson Park Public Charter School (PPPCS); Emily Augustin, principal of Clay Hill Public Charter School (CHPCS)

**Unless otherwise noted, an asterisk indicates there is a presentation or document archived online in the Google Drive linked to the meeting agenda. These are effectively part of the minutes.*

I. Opening Items

- A. The board was placed in small groups for conversation at 7 pm.
- B. Board president Sarah Sandoval-Mohapatra called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- C. Record Attendance and Guests (see above) – the roll was taken and noted
- D. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
- E. The consent agenda* was approved; it includes the June minutes of the Executive Committee and board and the August Executive Committee minutes.

II. Recognition Celebration – the board president noted that Wednesday, October 20 is the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Clay Hill Public Charter School. She spoke of the 6-year journey to reach this point of opening CHPCS, and offered thanks and congratulations to the many staff, board, and community members who have made it possible to bring these new public-school seats to the area.

III. Staff-at-Large Report*

- A. PPPCS – Miss Adams and Miss Perry provided the staff report for PPPCS. Each began with self-introductions and described how the teachers and children are adapting to instruction in-person with COVID mitigations. Glows include excitement at being back in school, the new language arts curriculum, and appreciation of administration support at entry and dismissal; grows include looking forward to more clarity around the school district’s COVID pool testing set to begin Sept. 16.

There was some QA and discussion, during which it was noted that for now seating patterns are the same in all classes to help with contact tracing, but we will need to be alert to how young people with exceptionalities could be impacted by health and safety expectations and more generally how safety expectations impact instruction and potentially create or widen gaps.

- B. CHPCS – Miss Cooper and Miss Roman introduced themselves and described similar adaptations, concerns, challenges, and joys at CHPCS. They are helping children understand the whys of seating in class and the cafeteria and helping the children to feel responsible.

IV. Parents/Guardians-at-Large Report

Astrid Bharath-Pierce Julie Neale Taylor provided the PPPCS report. Julie explained that HOPPP, Hekima Table, and Mis Raices joined together to form the Family Council of PPPCS. The meetings for the Family Council begin on October 2. The groups will continue to meet individually, though HOPPP will only have additional meetings if there is a sense that there is any need for the meetings.

V. School and Growth Update*

Jane Lindenfelser began with the Executive Director’s report, thanking Kim for media relations work and Paul, Chris, Ankit, and Pat of the Finance Committee for work on the new construction loan, which was finalized on July 26. She summarized major actions on the three major goals: Academic Excellence (curriculum modifications following the audit etc.); Equity (hiring processes changed with positive results); Bright Futures (opened second school).

Jane reviewed the mission work with Giant Shoulders, which began with the board retreat before the pandemic. An adjustment was made to the mission then, but as DEI work continued at PPPCS, the mission did not seem to capture adequately the goals of PPPCS Inc. Thus, work continued with Giant Shoulders, including a session with the board in the spring of 2021. Giant Shoulders works to articulate for its clients a Culture Framework, which includes vision, values, mission, qualities, and storylines. Jane noted that although Giant Shoulders articulates vision as a challenge question, there is some discussion as to whether that will be how the public articulation of the vision will be expressed; but the question remains useful as a push to be action-oriented. (The full slide deck with details is linked to the board agenda for this meeting.) Each school should have multiple storylines. Jane and the staff will use the culture framework to guide communications to help support a unifying culture across two schools.

Dr. Chad Kramer provided the PPPCS report. Attendance is about 93%, with some attendance impact from quarantines. There have been 4 COVID cases, and dozens are in case management. Annual early literacy testing (mClass) has begun. There was a power outage on day 2 of opening, related to hurricane challenges.

Ms. Emily Augustine provided the CHPCS report. The school demographics differ from PPPCS: 64% Latinx, 29% African-American, 7% other (white, Asian, Native American etc.); 6% are US newcomers, 46% are English Language Learners, 4% are gifted/advanced, and 6% are other special needs. Attendance for the 185 enrollment is around 90%. A school nurse and Health & Safety Coordinator are still awaited from BCPSS; there was discussion of options. The Pollyanna racial equity curriculum is being implemented. OrchKids is a partner with CHPCS, and there is a new language partner.

Ms. Lindenfelser provided more information on BCPSS asymptomatic pool testing and noted that temporary Health & Safety Coordinators were to be assigned to the schools for that testing. She also provided information on the two schools’ enrollment to date vis-à-vis budget. Enrollment is not finalized until the end of September. PPPCS is on track (-1); CHPCS still needs 8. Because charters require an application, it is not clear that BCPSS directs student transfers to charters unless requested.

VI. Facilities Committee*

Lazette Wells, chair, provided the Facilities Committee report. The board voted to approve Ramond Sneed to be a member of the committee. Committee goals in the coming year include follow-up with Bob Proutt as the CHPCS phase 1 project closes; doing a capital project report for both schools; and helping to identify facilities operations priorities.

VII. Finance Committee*

The committee chair was excused, so Jane provided the committee report. The good news is that PPPCS Inc. has ESSER III federal funds, a Struggling Learners Grant, a tutoring grant, and several other grants going, so there are revenue changes that had to be accounted for in the budget. Both schools' budget committees were pulled together over the summer to identify changes based on articulated priorities. Still to be determined for annual budgets are the enrollment adjustment after the late September count and the special education allocation.

VIII. Governance*

- A. Candace noted that City Schools sent charter schools a new operator conflict of interest form on Sept. 9. All voting directors must complete one and submit it promptly as they all must be given to City Schools this month. These are required for charter renewal. The form is linked to the agenda, as is the folder where they should be uploaded by Sept. 27.
- B. Jane summarized the three changes to the Employee Handbook that were originally shared with the board at the June meeting. The board voted to approve these changes (1 abstention).
- C. The committee goals for the year are to articulate the officer nomination process in the handbook; to review and act on the original staff demand around a board DEI committee; to prepare for leadership transition; and to add new directors to the board.

IX. Closing Items

- A. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 20.
- B. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.