

Patterson Park Public Charter School, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2022

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 (SAL-PPPCS), Paul Rishar, Anais Roman (SAL-CHPCS), Lauren Stutzman, Lazette Wells; *ex officio*: Jane Lindenfelser

Absent: Charles Conner, Charletta McLean, Chris Scott, Julie Neale Taylor

Staff and Guests: Emily Augustine, principal of Clay Hill Public Charter School (CHPCS); PPPCS Assistant Principals Yolanda Manning and Alexis Suskin-Sperry; Miss Susana Reyes, teacher; Abdel Piedramartel (interpreting), Erin Deason, Lauren Eaton, Jacob Holtz, Sthefany Juarez-Milla, Duncan Leach, Marlon Lopez Rivera, Marcos Altami (surname may not have been fully visible)

**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. Board president Sarah Sandoval-Mohapatra called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm. She read the mission in English, and then Abdel read it in Spanish. [Throughout the meeting, Abdel provided Spanish interpretation in a similar manner.]
- B. Record Attendance and Guests (see above) – the roll was taken and noted
- C. Public Comment – There was none.
- D. The consent agenda* was approved by board vote. It included the January board minutes, the Facilities Committee report, the Development report, and the Academic Excellence Committee report.

II. Staff-at-Large Report*

- A. PPPCS – Miss Perry noted the DEI Committee organized a Black History Heritage Event that 60 families participated in. There was a reading night and 60 families from both schools participated. Miss Pinkett has been meeting weekly with the elementary robotics team. Miss Adams described the planters and birdhouses set up by the middle school Green Team, noted a group of 8th graders will participate in a weeklong Outward Bound activity.
- B. CHPCS –Ms. Roman noted that she and Ms. Cooper organized a Tea Time with staff, described activities with the Readathon and Book Fair, and introduced a new ESOL paraprofessional, Mr. Rivera. Ms. Cooper described growth areas and visions for next year, which had been discussed

at the staff Tea; items included reviewing interventions to make sure they are working as desired and that we see student growth; staff are looking for ways to make more connections with each other and not just during the school day; seeking more hours for the Spanish support teacher (who helps the Spanish-speaking students with language assistance) and for after-school tutoring. (Ms. Augustine, principal, noted that CHPCS has an MOU with the Language Project for a certain number of hours of service from the Spanish specials teacher; on contract renewal, there will be an effort to increase the number of hours.) Staff highlights were Yohali Islas in the main office (a PPPCS alum) and Bess Aquila, special education teacher.

III. Parents/Guardians-at-Large Report

Astrid Bharath Pierce provided the Parents-at-Large from PPPCS. She summarized the parent groups at PPPCS (HOPPP, Hekima Table, Mis Raices, School Family Council) and their traditional areas of focus and schedule, and she described how the new Family Council had worked thus far. There are some challenges as the School Family Council has been meeting in the HOPPP slot. Family Council has 24 board members but does not have parental leadership; implementation of Family Council may be tweaked. HOPPP will resume its Saturday monthly meeting time, and Family Council will meet quarterly. Work will continue to distinguish the two groups, as well as to ensure attention to the voices of Hekima Table and Mis Raices. Covid has had a great impact on how parents interact.

Julie Neale Taylor and Ms. Pierce, the two HOPPP-elected PAL representatives presented a proposal that will be considered through Governance and the board, as well as by HOPPP. They seek to facilitate preparation of a new representative by, for one year, splitting one seat between them. This will allow the longstanding practice of having one new and one returning PAL representative on the board at the same time. Summer will be used for planning to create a PAL roadmap for board work. They will work toward a more democratic process of identifying parent/guardian/caretaker representation. There will be ongoing conversation about HOPPP and board bylaws that may need revision. There was discussion about taking the time needed to make the transition. Further discussion on the topic could be part of a retreat.

There was also discussion about the amount of time needed for a parent to be a board representative, especially now that one would be on a parent group, on Family Council, and on the board, plus have some training. Such time incurs costs. The Governance Committee will review covering such costs as there are legal implications to offering stipends.

IV. School and Growth Update*

- A. Jane Lindenfelser gave the Executive Director's report. She noted both schools had lotteries this year. PPPCS is still seeking Kindergarten applications. CHPCS is still seeking Kindergarten and 2nd grade applications. CHPCS facilities now has part-time day assistance.
- B. Ms. Augustine reported that school-wide intervention programming has started at CHPCS. She also reported that Ms. Duré has led the process of putting anti-bias work into recruitment and hiring, which are underway. Attendance at CHPCS has been challenging (at 89%), and the Attendance Committee is working on means to address it. The lack of clinical personnel to be assigned by City Schools has had an impact on attendance in the context of Covid. She also noted 250 people attended family skating night.
- C. Ms. Manning and Ms. Suskin-Sperry provided the PPPCS report. Hiring is being led by Kelly O'Connor; panel interviews and teaching demonstrations are coming up. Students are currently

doing end of year STAR and science assessments for 5th and 8th graders. They also noted the African American Heritage event and the Outward Bound program (27 applications for 22 spots). Attendance is at 91%, but they also noted three weeks without a Covid case. They noted the joy in the school for the Pajama Day associated with the Read-a-thon.

V. Finance Committee*

Paul Rishar, chair and board treasurer, began the report with a description of the efforts underway for phase 2 of CHPCS renovation: Wye River has been engaged again to investigate funding options, with approximately \$3M needed. The charter operator now has a low investment grade rating, which is a significant improvement over a few years ago.

He noted the audit has been completed. It was a clean audit, and it will be posted on the PPPCS Inc. website.

Jane Lindenfelser provided the budget update for the two schools, beginning with a review of the process. There is family engagement through having a member on each school's budget committee, participating in a survey on budget priorities, and there is an engagement forum in March. The committees make recommendations to the Finance Committee, the Finance Committee then makes recommendations to the full board, which has final say. With the passage of the Blueprint for Education legislation in 2021, school funding no longer works on a uniform per pupil basis for charters, but rather all public schools are funded so that the schools with more needs receive more resources. This weighted student funding has resulted in \$12,715 per pupil at CHPCS and \$10,713 for PPPCS. Statewide the charter per pupil average is \$13,880. Compared to last year, this is a 10% increase for PPPCS and 30% increase for CHPCS. Both schools now have budget surpluses. It was noted that not all surplus needs to be spent but can be saved. The improved budget picture will prompt some hiring: at PPPCS, another special educator, a social worker, a middle school teacher, a paraprofessional, a reading intervention teacher, and a half position for health. CHPCS will hire a half-time librarian, a half-time fine arts instructor, an intervention teacher, and two paraprofessionals. The Blueprint funding is supported into the out years.

VI. Governance Committee*

Sarah Sandoval-Mohapatra, board chair, thanked Charlette McLean for having chaired the committee after noting she decided to step down as committee chair but will remain on the committee. Lauren Stutzman is the new chair and provided the report. The board voted to approve the clarification in the Employee Handbook on final pay.

VII. Closing Items

- A. The next meeting will be April 20, 2022.
- B. The School Effectiveness Review for the PPPCS charter renewal will take place in April.
- C. The meeting adjourned 8:58 pm.