

# PPPCS, Inc. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MEETING MINUTES

October 20, 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), Charles Conner, Raven Cooper (SAL-CHPCS), Kim Francois, Tasha Johnson, Natasha Perry (SAL-PPPCS), Paul Rishar, Anais Roman (SAL-CHPCS), Lauren Stutzman, Julie Neale Taylor (PAL-PPPCS), Lazette Wells; *ex officio*: Jane Lindenfelser

**Absent:** Pat Irish, Charletta McLean, Chris Scott

**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 7:12 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 Facilities report and the September board and Executive Committee minutes.

### II. Staff-at-Large Report\*

- A. PPPCS – Miss Perry provided the elementary school report, and Miss Adams the middle school report. They noted it is Principal Appreciation Month; conveyed challenges and anxieties related to COVID; and described positive activities in community service, with Audobon, and with math.
- B. CHPCS – Ms. Roman and Ms. Cooper provided the report, with Glows and Grows, the latter around COVID and the former for safety measures, the Language Project with Mr. Liam, and OrchKids.
- C. There was discussion about whether the staff feel there is one culture or two across the schools and how shared professional development, intentional communication, and other activities can make the connections more visible.
- D. There was discussion about the ribbon-cutting earlier in the day, and photos were shared. The student Dancing Dinosaurs demonstrated meringue, cumbia, and rumba at the event. The school community continues to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15. Principal Augustine described the RAWR board where there are shout-outs to the children for positive behaviors teachers have noticed. She noted outdoor activities in Joseph E. Lee Park next to the Clay Hill school. Growth areas for the CHPCS team include working toward better work/life

balance (new school, pandemic: very fast-paced work), navigating a higher percentage of native Spanish speakers in classes than in PPPCS, and learning what the parent/family school community needs and how we can adequately support this community. The team is working to cultivate a space where the emotional needs of students are a priority in an academic setting. A professional development day is opening up the conversation on racial biases and unlearning white supremacy.

#### **IV. Parents/Guardians-at-Large Report**

Astrid Bharath-Pierce presented the report. She noted PPPCS had its first School and Family Council meeting. The Hekima Table is putting some activities on the calendar, and HOPPP will be represented at CHPCS Trick or Treat. The parents gave a shout-out of thanks to the teachers and staff for their hard work this year.

#### **IV. School and Growth Update\***

- A. Jane Lindenfelser gave the Executive Director's report. She thanked the group for their work to launch CHPCS. She noted the Culture Framework and mission reviewed in September would come for a vote in November. She reviewed enrollment: 186 for CHPCS and 725 for PPPCS.
- B. Ms. Augustine noted caregiver conferences took place in a hybrid way (some in person, some virtual), which families appreciated. Next week the full continuity of learning will be in place: there will be in-person classes but virtual accommodations for those students who have to quarantine. Because City Schools has not yet appointed a school nurse, there is no on-site Covid testing, and thus the attendance rate (89%) is negatively impacted because students with any Covid symptoms have to quarantine. Take-home devices are part of the continuity of learning plan.
- C. Dr. Kramer said there were zero suspensions so far this year. Data are being evaluated to determine the impact of online wholeness referrals and restorative practices taking place in school and virtually. Bluebird trophies are being given out to reward positive behaviors. Attendance in school is at 93.49%. The continuity of learning plan at PPPCS will also go into place next week, which will positively impact attendance. PPPCS caregiver conferences have also taken place, and beginning of the year testing (STAR, MClass, and MCAP (3rd-8th for PPPCS, 3-12th grade for state) will be done by October 22. Academic Excellence Cte will analyze data. The guidance counselor uses the data for high school choice guidance. City Schools is encountering challenges hiring, so the hiring of special education staff in particular is delayed, and three positions are not yet filled. Dr. Kramer noted the effectiveness of on-site Covid (PCR) testing. There is some frustration around the miscommunication between the City Health Department and City Schools; families with concerns should speak with the principals of the schools.

#### **V. Executive Committee\***

- A. The committee and executive director introduced a proposed vaccine policy for employees of the nonprofit operator. Teachers and other employees of the City Schools who are in PPPCS and CHPCS must already follow the City Schools vaccination policy, which states that employees must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 or have an approved medical or religious exemption and follow a testing protocol. City Schools indicated that its policy does not cover operator employees. The proposed nonprofit policy closely mirrors the City Schools policy. The City Schools compliance deadline is November 1. The nonprofit operator deadline would be later,

both to allow for materials to be translated into Spanish and to provide sufficient time to ask questions and to become familiar with the policy. Staff were alerted weeks ago that this would be proposed. The board had a robust discussion about the proposed policy, incentives for vaccination, and various risks and benefits. The board president invited people to email her and the executive director with questions so that next month when the proposal comes back for a vote, all members believe they can make an informed decision.

#### **VI. Closing Items**

- A. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 19.
- B. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm. Voting members of the board remained to discuss the executive director's performance review, including priorities for the coming year.