



**Regular Meeting of the
Board of Directors of Citizens of the World Kansas City**

Date: Thursday, October 21st, 2021, 5:30pm

Proposed Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mr. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Mr. MacDonald welcomed the members of the public in attendance and gave an overview of the meeting order.

2. Roll Call by Board Chair

Mr. MacDonald called roll as follows:

Present:

Ms. Brandi Finocchario
Dr. Sarah Hicks (5:43 pm)
Mr. Jim MacDonald
Mr. Miguel Meneses
Mr. Luke Norris
Ms. Selina Rios
Ms. Maria Salcedo

Absent:

Mr. Emanuel Mccrainey
Mr. Jeff Phillips

Mr. MacDonald determined that with 6 of 9 (later 7 of 9?) Board Members present, a quorum is established for purposes of holding the meeting and voting.

3. Review & Consideration of Proposed Agenda

The Board did not have any comments regarding the proposed agenda.

Mr. Meneses moved to approve the agenda as proposed and Mr. Norris provided a second to the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

4. Public Comments

Mr. MacDonald introduced himself, thanked the public on the call, and provided an overview of the public comment process and guidelines. Mr. MacDonald then invited public comment; no public comment was made.

5. Review & Consideration of minutes from the September 16th, 2021 regular meeting of the Board

The Board did not have any comments regarding the proposed minutes from the September 16th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board.

Mr. Norris moved to approve the minutes as proposed and Ms. Finocchiaro provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

6. Board Business

a. Review & Consideration of appointing Dr. Sarah Hicks to the Board Secretary role (Mr. Jim MacDonald)

Mr. MacDonald shared that he spoke to Dr. Hicks about her willingness to assume the Board Secretary role and is grateful for her willingness to serve.

Mr. MacDonald moved to appoint Dr. Sarah Hicks as the Board Secretary and Ms. Salcedo provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

b. Review & Consideration of amended Vaccination Policy for Related Services (Dr. Thomas Vansaghi)

Dr. Vansaghi presented a proposed supplemental policy for related services as an addendum to the earlier-approved policy stating that all employees must be vaccinated. The policy mandates any related service provider entering our building to work with students as well as any parent chaperone on a field trip to provide proof of covid vaccination. Dr. Vansaghi believes this additional policy will continue to protect our un-vaccinated students.

Dr. Sarah Hicks joined the meeting at 5:43pm.

Mr. MacDonald elaborated that this policy would extend to student services such as Ability KC, Literacy Lab, etc.; Dr. Vansaghi confirmed.

Mr. MacDonald asked if there was a plan to communicate this out to those stakeholders. Dr. Vansaghi affirmed that the school contact would work with the vendor services to communicate the policy and ensure compliance. Dr. Miles said she would appreciate board guidance/policy that school staff can refer to in conversations with our partners.

Mr. Norris asked a clarification on why unvaccinated service providers would be prohibited from entering the building where our mandatory vaccination policy on employees is lagging and also expressed reservation that we contract with vendors to provide legally-required services to high-need students - if the school is prohibiting those people from serving our students, we must have a solution.

Mr. Norris moved to approve the policy with an amendment for exemptions and Ms. Salcedo provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

7. Monthly Finance Report (Dr. Thomas Vansaghi / Mr. Ryan Brennan)
a. Finance Committee Report

In Mr. Phillips' absence, Mr. Brennan provided the financial report. The September ending cash balance was \$682k, down from August's \$900k. The school is still experiencing the funding lag (which is usually adjusted in October) and start-of-year expenses are winding down.

Moving to the Income Statement, the school has received \$1.5m of revenue year-to-date against a budget of \$1.3m. This is primarily due to higher-than-expected federal payments in meal reimbursements and ESSER-II. On the expense side, year-to-date expenses are \$2m against a budget of \$1.7m, resulting in a year-to-date net income/loss of (-\$539k) against a budget of (-\$373k). The higher-than-expected expenses are in part due to an increase in staff salaries and benefits for an additional health aide, the Sherman Foundation retention stipend distribution, and an open enrollment cost increase. However, the primary driver of the higher-than-expected increase is due to ESSER-3 specific purchases that total nearly \$110k so far. The vast majority (about \$100k) of those expenses are not budgeted and are thus reflected as "extra expenses", such as 4th/5th grade individual classroom desks, additional cafeteria tables, additional Chromebooks and other technology needs like webcams. Once DESE approves the school's initial ESSER-3 application, staff will begin drawing funds as soon as allowed. A reminder that ESSER-3 revenue is not in our budget, so when we do receive those funds, that will be additional reflected revenue.

Looking at Key Performance Indicators, the school has 50 days of cash on hand, down from 58 at the end of August and is forecasted to end the year with a 13% fund balance. Again, both of those KPIs do not account for incoming ESSER-3 revenue.

b. Review & Consideration of Monthly Financials (September 2021), including Check Register

Mr. Brennan reported there was no unusual accounts payable nor checkbook register entries in September and presented the September check register for Board approval.

Mr. Norris moved to approve the check register as proposed and Mr. Meneses provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

8. Executive Director's Report (Dr. Thomas Vansaghi)
a. School Dashboard

Dr. Vansaghi reported that current enrollment is 530 students, with 11 pending students. Mr. MacDonald asked a few enrollment questions; Mr. Brennan & Dr. Miles answered.

Ms. Rios asked about non-binary gender; Mr. Brennan confirmed.

Mr. MacDonald asked about FRL percentage and funding implications. Mr. Brennan and Dr. Miles answered the funding and question of process of continuing to capture FRL forms.

Mr. MacDonald asked about Special Education and ELL percentages; Mr. Norris answered that our Special Education percentage is historically in line, matches KCPS, and is slightly higher than other charters; the school's current ELL percentage is lower than historical though.

Mr. Brennan confirmed that EdOps does and will continue to provide funding projections based on attendance and WADA variables. Dr. Miles & Mrs. Gripp shared that parents are proactively keeping their students home on a more regular basis. Mr. Brennan also noted that attendance during Week 2 of the academic year was significantly lower, which lowered the overall average. Mr. MacDonald shared that he is concerned about funding implications and asked school staff to very closely monitor.

Mr. MacDonald also reviewed the 90/90 numbers and wanted to flag them as concerning, too.

b. Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Vansaghi presented the strategic plan dashboard; his goal is to ensure this is a regular touchpoint between school leadership and the Board and the priorities are on track to completion. It will be further updated over the coming weeks and months. He also plans to fold the CWCS services tracking sheet into this same document.

c. Update on CWCS Services

Dr. Vansaghi invited Ms. Rodriguez and Mrs. Furlong (CWCS Staff) to introduce themselves and provide comment.

Ms. Rodriguez reminded the Board that she has been serving as Interim CEO of CWCS for the last 20 months. She shared that she is transitioning out of her role at CWCS and has accepted a local role in New York, and will continue to serve on CWCS' board. She further shared that CWCS will welcome Mrs. Furlong as the permanent CEO of their organization. The transition will formally happen in January 2022. Mr. MacDonald congratulated both ladies on their new role. Mrs. Furlong shared excitement for the continued CWCS-CWCKC partnership over the coming years.

Dr. Vansaghi shared the existing CWCS Services that Mr. Hile and CWCS agreed to, and also reported that Dr. Miles has had productive conversations about specific ways CWCS can partner and support the school.

Ms. Salcedo shared congratulations and also asked if there was a timeline on any revisions – will those be agreed upon by end-of-semester to be implemented by end-of-year, or is there another timeline? Ms. Furlong confirmed some aspects have been completed and/or in process and she and Dr. Miles are working on identifying other critical aspects. Ms. Furlong offered to give a report at the November Board meeting; Ms. Salcedo agreed that would be a good timeline.

d. Presentation & Review of 2020-2021 MCPSC Annual Report

Dr. Vansaghi presented the draft of MCPSC's 2020-2021 Annual Report. He gave a high-level overview of the data and benchmarks, as well as an overview of the provided narrative.

Mr. Norris clarified this is the draft report of the assessment MSPSC completed 8-9 months ago; for context, he shared the site visit normally occurs in late February. The assessment is based on the observations of an independent, third-party that MCPSC contracts with. The school normally gets a draft report within a few weeks, which flows through our Board Committee. There has been work along these lines over the past few months – this is not the first time the Board is seeing a form of this report. Board members and school staff have already been responsive to this report and continue to use it as a touchpoint and guidepost.

e. Presentation & Review of 2020-2021 MAP Data (Dr. Danielle Miles)

Dr. Vansaghi framed the presentation by reminding the Board that this MAP data is from last year – a year of primarily remote learning during covid, not regular in-person, and under different academic leadership.

Dr. Miles presented the MAP Data and shared that the Academic Leadership Team is well underway in setting up academic responses.

Dr. Miles first provided context for the MAP test: it was taken in the Spring of 2021 while the school was operating in a hybrid model. Students had been in virtual learning for an academic year (March 2020-March 2021) and in-person students attended 2 days per week in a hybrid model. Dr. Miles also noted that the 6th and 7th grade students reflected here had not experienced any in-person time at Citizens – they are all “transfers in.” The school did meet the participation threshold (85%) with 89% of students taking the test. She highlighted that our 5th grade population (founding 1st graders) performed the best out of all grade levels and it does show that the longer students are with Citizens, the better they do.

Dr. Miles presented grade-level data by ethnicity, which shows minority students are not performing as well as white students. She presented other data points, including:

- 5th Grade is performing closest to the state in both ELA and Math.
- 5th Grade was the best performing grade level in 2020-2021.
- ELA is the strength at Citizens.
- There is a disparity between white and minority students in both ELA and Math.

She shared reflections on the culture at Citizens and reported a commitment to focusing on Tier I instruction that meets the needs of all students. Her plan is to address culture first, then math – accomplished by refocusing professional development and provided supports. All teachers need to believe in the mission and work together. She shared that she is excited – there is nothing better than seeing students learn and teachers being successful. The data is a gut check, but she is also very confident she can lead this team of passionate and committed educators.

Mr. Norris shared that the achievement gap is a known issue; he hears Dr. Miles talking about a deeper culture issue. He also was struck on the data point that the longer a student is at Citizens, the better they perform. He would like to dig into the performance of students <1 year, and more than 3 years. Dr. Miles reiterated that the goal is every student be at or above grade level and remains enrolled at Citizens long-term.

Mr. MacDonald acknowledged the data is disappointing. He was self-reflective on role of Board in supporting academic achievement, and asked the Academic Excellence Committee to provide the Board with ideas on how Board meetings and Board members can ensure academic performance is center point on the radar.

Mr. Norris – acknowledged that Dr. Miles is supported by Board members on the Academic Excellence Committee (Ms. Rios & Dr. Hicks), but he also very interested in how she/the school is utilizing real-time data. He is also interested in Dr. Miles speaking truth on whether NWEA works for our program and whether it is a good indicator of MAP performance. If not, he would look for a recommendation for other assessments.

Dr. Miles also shared one of her prior colleagues is now working with the University of Central Missouri and is working with Citizens to do a deep dive into data analysis. She said it won't be "rainbows and unicorns" in a year, but it will be in 3-5 years.

Ms. Rios said that she appreciates the concept of "culture first" and wondered what other data points there could be (holistic student assessments, etc.). Dr. Miles agreed and welcomed suggestions.

Dr. Hicks asked about the frequency of NWEA assessments; Dr. Miles answered.

Mrs. Betts (CWC Faculty) and Ms. Jolly (CWC Parent) shared appreciation for the honest assessment – especially on the ethnic breakdown – of the data and Dr. Miles' approach to that.

9. Closed Session

Pursuant to § 610.021 (2) & (13) RSMo, the Board of Directors of CWC Kansas City will enter into closed session to discuss matters related to contracts and individually identifiable personnel records.

Mr. MacDonald invited Dr. Vansaghi, Dr. Miles, Mr. Brennan, Mrs. Gripp, and Mr. Johnson into Closed Session.

Ms. Salcedo moved to go into Closed Session and Ms. Rios provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

10. Return from Closed Session; report on any action taken as required.

Mr. MacDonald welcomed members of the public back into Open Session and reported that discussion related to facilities and identifiable employees. No actions were taken that require reporting.

Mr. MacDonald did share that discussion related to identifiable employees warranted additional review and consideration and a decision was made to hold an additional Special Meeting of the Board during the week of October 25th, pending Board availability.

11. Adjourn

Mr. Nelson moved to adjourn and Mr. Meneses provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

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