



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

Location: CWC Kansas City Primary Grades Campus
3435 Broadway Blvd
Kansas City, MO 64111

Date: Wednesday, February 13th, 2019, 5:30pm

Proposed Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mr. Norris called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

2. Roll Call by Board Chair

Mr. Norris proceeded with roll call.

Present:

Mr. Jacob Littrell
Mr. Jim MacDonald (via phone)
Mr. Miguel Meneses
Mr. Luke Norris
Mr. Joe Richmond (via phone)
Mr. Anthony Sealey (via phone; then in person at 5:48 pm)
Mrs. Johna Sutton (via phone at 5:44 pm)
Dr. Joy Vann-Hamilton

Absent:

Ms. Maria Salcedo

Mr. Norris determined that with 6 of 9 – later 8 of 9 - Board Members present, a quorum is established for purposes of holding the meeting and voting.

3. Review & Consideration of Proposed Agenda

Mr. Littrell proposed that "Presentation on Funding Inequity" be moved forward from item #10b to #8 to respect the time of the guest presenter.

Dr. Vann-Hamilton moved to approve the agenda as modified; and Ms. Sutton provided a second to the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

4. Public Comments

Mr. Norris invited public comment. No public comment was made.

5. Review & Consideration of minutes from the January 9th, 2019 regular meeting of the Board

The Board did not have any comments regarding the proposed minutes from the January 9th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board.

Mr. Littrell moved to approve the minutes as proposed and Dr. Vann-Hamilton provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

6. Review & Consideration of minutes from the January 17th, 2019 special meeting of the Board

The Board did not have any comments regarding the proposed minutes from the January 17th, 2019 Special Meeting of the Board.

Dr. Vann-Hamilton moved to approve the minutes as proposed and Mr. Meneses provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

7. Review & Consideration of minutes from the January 31st, 2019 special meeting of the Board

The Board did not have any comments regarding the proposed minutes from the January 31st, 2019 Special Meeting of the Board.

Mr. Littrell moved to approve the minutes as proposed and Dr. Vann-Hamilton provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

8. Presentation on Funding Inequity (Mr. Dean Johnson)

Mr. Norris introduced Mr. Dean Johnson, Board Chair of Missouri Charter Public Schools Association & Executive Director of Crossroads Charter Schools.

Mr. Johnson prefaced the presentation by reminding the Board that charter schools' per-year weighted ADA funding has decreased each year from \$8,743 in FY 16 to \$8,670 in FY 17, to \$8,607 in FY 18 and \$8,588 in FY 19. A key question that charter leaders are increasingly asking is "why is this happening?" WADA is not designed to go down; there have not been cuts at the state level (in fact, funding has been increased). In researching, MCPSA has determined that there are some unintended errors in how dollars are divided up between the KCPS district and Kansas City charters. There are some legislative fixes that are needed to solve these errors. Mr. Johnson stated that he was invited today to give a high-level overview of the "sticking points" and an overview of what MCPSA is trying to get accomplished in Jefferson City.

Mr. Johnson presented a video (presented by MCPSA).

Mr. Johnson distributed a one-page synopsis and discussed a few key issues. First, charter schools do not receive any designated local dollars. Each year, Jackson County collects property taxes and fees/funds

dedicated to go to public education. The Jackson County treasurer distributes that revenue to KCPS. When KC charters started in 1999, all charters were part of KCPS' LEA. In 2004, as a result of a lawsuit filed and won by charters, each charter became their own LEA, which meant charters could receive money directly from the state. However, because charters are not taxing authorities, charters do not receive designated local money. To compensate for that, KCPS gets "less than their share" of state dollars. However, the figure that was used in that formula was frozen in 2005 and that has major impact on per pupil funding. Local tax funds have increased since 2005, but the resulting payout percentage/formula have actually decreased.

The second big issue is there are funds that simply are not in charters' "basket of local dollars." "Payments in lieu of taxes" are one such example (wherein a developer would negotiate an upfront cash payment in lieu of property taxes that will no longer be given to the district) – however, those funds are never taken into account in charter funding distributions. Several of these such streams of money are collected in KCPS' boundaries and sent to KCPS, but are not factored into DESE's calculations into charter's per-pupil funding.

Mr. Johnson welcomed additional input from and an opportunity to work further with the Board.

Mr. Littrell asked how the Board can practically help. Mr. Johnson said the biggest assistance is in mobilizing our community to connect with state representatives and legislators. Currently, "legislators feel no pain in voting against charter schools." The best thing to do is call Jefferson City.

Dr. Vann-Hamilton asked if Mr. Johnson is aware of other states that have traveled this road before us that we can model after? Mr. Johnson affirmed that there are comparable examples of charter underfunding, but our state situation is somewhat unique.

Mr. Norris stated that it is helpful to remember that 49% of students in KCPS boundaries are in charter schools. He believes that the charter community will be ramping up tactics, but this is not something that will get solved quickly; it's a multi-year approach.

Mr. Johnson agreed, saying at the end of the day, we have to fix it. This is not a lull in funding where WADA will ramp back up – WADA will continue to decline until this is solved.

Dr. Vann-Hamilton asked if there are any critical times to be vocal/active? Mr. Johnson replied that we can start to get the word out now. Solutions are not in specific bills just now, but there are plans for one. Once that bill hits a committee, then yes – full mobilization will be most helpful.

Mr. Norris reiterated that KCPS did not create this and we need to be sensitive on our message.

Mr. Sealey asked if there is any working relationship between KCPS and charters on this issue. Mr. Johnson shared that KCPS has invited charter schools to create a "educational leadership council" to assess the KC educational landscape. It's nascent and in development, but there is collaboration.

9. Finance Committee Report

a. Review & Consideration of Monthly Financials (January 2019), including Check Register

Mr. Richmond presented the monthly financial report and reiterated about \$250k needs to be fundraised to meet our revenue and cash position for closing out FY19.

Mr. Norris shared that the school has been invited to submit a grant to Sherman Family Foundation for programmatic and operating support, due in April. He also found out that our most recent NWEA scores qualify us for a "high-performing" school for an individual Kauffman award. We also have a request out to McGowan family foundation and another to the Bloch Family Foundation.

Mr. Richmond presented the January check register; Ms. Norris asked a question regarding a vendor payment; Dr. Droege answered.

Mr. Richmond moved to approve the January register as proposed and Mr. Sealey provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

10. Adoption of Board Resolution on Pre-Kindergarten (Mr. Luke Norris)

Mr. Norris shared that this past weekend, Mayor James joined our Community Council meeting to share information about the "Pre-K for KC" ballot measure.

This measure would implement a 3/8 of a cent sales tax across the Kansas City area and create \$38m in revenue to be used for capital expansion, but also a sliding scale payment to families to expand equitable access for Pre-K. Currently, 2,400 families apply for Head Start with a city capacity of only 1,000 seats – leaving a 1,400-seat gap in the Kansas City area. The impact of this sales tax on a family earning \$30-39k per year would be an annual tax increase of about \$50, but offset by qualifying for a \$12k payment/deduction for Pre-K access.

Mr. Norris shared with the Board that it is the recommendation of Mr. Norris, Mr. MacDonald, and Mr. Littrell that the Board resolve to publicly support this ballot measure. He invited questions; none were asked.

Mr. Norris moved to adopt a Board Resolution to publicly support the "Pre-K for KC" ballot measure. Mr. MacDonald provided a second and the following roll call vote was taken:

- Mr. Jacob Littrell Aye
- Mr. Jim MacDonald Aye
- Mr. Miguel Meneses Aye
- Mr. Luke Norris Aye
- Mr. Joe Richmond Aye
- Mr. Anthony Sealey Aye
- Mrs. Johna Sutton Aye
- Dr. Joy Vann-Hamilton Aye

The resolution was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

11. Update on Executive Director search (Mrs. Vanessa Rodriguez, CWC Schools)

Ms. Rodriguez thanked the hiring committee for their input on the search process and criteria. She provided a recap that we have received 27 applicants so far with more continuing to be submitted. Those 27 represent a fairly diverse applicant pool with 9 Male/18 Female, 15 Caucasian/8 African-American/3 Hispanic.

From the 27, she moved 8 to first-round interviews, consisting of a 45-minute phone conversation with her. By next week, she will complete those 8 and be able to identify who is moving forward to a 2nd round interview.

Mr. Norris underscored that the position is still open. He has given Ms. Rodriguez a candidate profile consisting of an educational background/interest, aligned with our core values, and strong experience in community engagement, fund-raising, and strategic planning.

He affirmed that there will be a place in the process for Board, family, staff, and community partners to have voice; initially, Mr. Meneses, Mrs. Sutton, and Mr. Littrell are supporting Ms. Rodriguez as the hiring committee.

12. Executive Director's Report (Dr. Kristin Droege)

a. Diversity– Update on Enrollment & Outreach; Attendance Initiative

Dr. Droege shared that as of creation of dashboard, enrollment stood at 288, but has increased since then to 292 currently. The school continues to see a trend since January of more entries than exits and demographics have held steady with gender still trending slightly male. The school is showing the same distribution of ethnicity and economic status (shown through FRL, currently at 64.9%) is the highest level since opening. She reminded the Board that the school's original goal was to support an FRL percentage of 50% and our historical trend has been closer to 60%.

Looking at ADA, she shared the whole school percentage is at 93.08% (as of 2/1/19), but it has dipped since then due to an incredibly inconsistent holiday/snow day schedule. She believes once winter has passed and schedule is consistent, that percentage will stabilize. Further, this will also give an opportunity for staff to consistently share out attendance progress (rewards, etc.) and follow-ups.

Mr. Norris shared that, for perspective, KCPS' FRL system average is 91.4%. There are only three charter schools reporting a lower rate than we are. Further, 42% of schools are at/exceeding Missouri average (82%).

Dr. Droege reviewed our charter attendance goal (% of students above 90%) and confirmed the school is continues to struggle at 77.8%. She further stated that if the school moved all of the students in the "85-90%" zone up to 90%, we hit our mark. Therefore, that's the strongest outreach focus (along with the "red zone" families).

Most notably in the demographic data, the percentage of students qualifying for IEP/504 has continued to increase. The Student Services team has worked very hard to meet the needs of those students. Additionally, the resulting percentage has led to in an increase in our federal WADA payments.

Mr. Norris shared, again for perspective, that KCPS' IEP incidents has increased since 2010 and the system average is 11%. There is only 1 charter greater than 15%.

Lastly, Dr. Droege reviewed student exits/entrances: as of 2/1/19, 39 students entered and 35 exited. Since then, those numbers have moved to 42 entrances and 35 exits. She further commented that, on a percentage basis, this remains our lowest annual turnover rate.

A parent asked if there are similar figures reported for staff (turnover, diversity, etc.)? Dr. Droege responded that that information is shared annually at the State of the School address, but there is not a ready-made document. Mr. Norris also confirmed that information is available in past Board minutes as well as our sponsor's report (available on MCPSC's website).

Mr. (Andrew) Johnson distributed a current Enrollment Pipeline Report and a February Recruitment Report and also presented a PowerPoint. He shared an overview of monthly goals for 6th grade (set in fall 2018) as well as progress toward those goals. That progress shows that we are in strong shape for K-3rd, on track for 4th, and behind in 6th grade. He affirmed the "One day at a time, one family at a time, one relationship at a time" mantra that he and Mrs. Gripp are focused on.

Mr. Johnson reminded the Board that we did hold off on publicizing our middle school. 100 families applied in SchoolAppKC before we held our public launch. In researching the landscape 3 schools are hosting 6th grade next year and there will be 50-100 families that apply to those schools and will be immediately waitlisted. He is trying to get creative (i.e. direct outreach to those schools supporting a waitlist and asking them to share us with their waitlist) on outreach efforts to those families.

He drew attention to bottom of his handout to the "Upcoming Opportunities," specifically neighborhood canvassing on President's Day. Mr. Sealey offered to forward emails to his neighborhood association.

Mrs. Gripp distributed flyers and asked the Board to distribute to their network and to their community gathering spaces. Mrs. Gripp shared a detailed overview of her outreach and networking efforts. Conversations are going well and she's garnering strong community support.

Mr. Norris underscored the critical nature of broad support of recruitment push before March 1. Dr. Droege underscored the "decision window" (March 7 – March 22) after waitlists are public. Ms. Rodriguez underscored need for consistent, daily outreach.

Mr. Norris also reminded the room that the applicant pool of 6th graders will be coming from a wide-range of current school locations (i.e. not all of them "unhappy at a district school").

b. Understanding – Our Student Support Program: Preliminary Results of the New Systems

Dr. Droege introduced Mrs. Sara Murphy, Director of Student Support. Mrs. Murphy distributed two handouts. The first, "response to intervention" shows our tiers of support (academics, social, and emotional support) for students. Throughout this year, she has changed the school's system in responding to behavior challenges, most notably by implementing a "response team" in conjunction with Summit Behavioral. As that rolled out, she discovered additional gaps in student support. As a result, the "Teach and Protect" classroom was created in early November and staffed by a Summit Behavioral employee. Mrs. Murphy has captured data (since TAP room was created) and showed a slide showing individual student visits to the TAP room. She highlighted that the trend line is going down – showing students are receiving more instruction in the classroom. Additionally, children who are experiencing intense challenges (that they can't remain in classroom) incidents are declining.

The second handout provided an overview of response strategies.

Mrs. Murphy also looked at the student demographics from TAP room visits. Out of 35 total students that have used the space since the beginning of January, the percentage significantly skews toward African-American and male.

Mr. Norris asked how the school is using this data to ensure there is not cognitive bias in discipline. How are we reinforcing values alignment? Dr. Droege responded that we view the development of this program and it's focus on not suspending and instead getting back into classroom as "the balance." The starting point was to create the system to support children – we're getting to the point where we can now step back and assess.

Mr. Norris shared that he has had discussion with Dr. Otten, who wanted to commend Mrs. Murphy and the team on their work, approach, and result.

Mr. Sealey asked how we can share this with our parent community; a parent (attending as a member of the public) agreed with that sentiment. Dr. Droege responded that there will be four scheduled touchpoints per month for parents to engage with her (i.e. Community Council, Coffee with Dr. Droege) and those would be a good opportunity for this share.

Another parent (attending as a member of the public) suggested doing "pinned posts" on the Family Council Facebook page – some posts giving overview of discipline philosophy, some giving information on success stories.

Another parent (attending as a member of the public) asked what the TAP room looks like. Dr. Droege responded that it is a place to calm and a place to process; the team has been advised to make it the most boring room possible as to not make it appealing to students. Further, the Response Team is not using TAP room as the only option – there are other options available (if energy needs to be expended – going to the MPR, taking a hallway walk, etc.).

c. Connection – Updates on Charter School Pre-K Collaborative

Dr. Droege shared that conversations continue to be ongoing with the Pre-K Collaborative and those discussions seem to be fruitful; she will continue to share further updates as she is able.

13. Closed Session

Pursuant to § 610.021 (3) & § 610.021 (13) RSMo, the Board of Directors of CWC Kansas City will enter into closed session to discuss matters related to personnel and personnel records.

Mr. Norris invited Ms. Rodriguez & Mr. Brennan, Mrs. Gripp, Mr. Johnson to stay.

Mr. Littrell moved to go into Closed Session and Dr. Vann-Hamilton provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

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

Mr. Norris reported that all discussion related to identifiable personnel and personnel records. Further, one vote was taken that require reporting.

He received a motion from Mr. Littrell (seconded by Dr. Vann-Hamilton) to approve the 2019-2020 compensation package for the Executive Director. Mr. Norris took a roll call vote with the results as follows:

- Mr. Jim MacDonald Aye
- Mr. Miguel Meneses Aye
- Mr. Luke Norris Aye
- Mr. Joe Richmond Aye
- Mr. Anthony Sealey Aye
- Mrs. Johna Sutton Aye
- Dr. Joy Vann-Hamilton Aye

The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

Mr. Norris also reported that Mr. Littrell stepped out at 7:24pm and did not participate in the vote.

15. Adjourn

Mr. Sealey moved to adjourn and Mrs. Sutton provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

[/rb]