



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

**During a  
Public Hearing & Board Interview hosted by the  
Missouri Charter Public School Commission**

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82710395679>  
Live on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mocharterschools>

**Date:** Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 5:00pm

**Proposed Minutes**

Ms. Geist (MCPSC) welcomed the public and opened the hearing at 5:01pm. She introduced herself as the moderator on behalf of the Missouri Charter Public School Commission

5:00 p.m. Public Hearing – Citizens of the World Charter Schools – Kansas City Renewal

Mr. Scott, chair of MCPSC, introduced himself and welcomed Citizens of the World Charter Schools – Kansas City to the Public Hearing & Board Interview.

Mr. Norris introduced himself, gave an overview of the school's initial five-year charter history and timeline. He presented a high-level snapshot of the school's strategic plan, the school's strengths to leverage, and highlighted opportunity areas for school leadership to actively address.

Mr. Hile then expressed gratitude to the Commission, provided comments, and shared the school's key strategic priorities: Academic Programming, School Community, Financial Sustainability, and External Supports.

Ms. Geist segued into public comment.

Ms. Roberson (CWC parent and faculty member) shared her positive experience as a parent and faculty member.

Ms. Donovan (CWC faculty member) shared her experience as a faculty member and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Ms. Parks (CWC faculty member) shared her experience as a faculty member and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Ms. Maggio (CWC parent) shared her experience as a parent and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Mr. & Mrs. Lineberry (CWC parents) shared their experiences as a parent and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Ms. Millard (CWC parent) shared her experience as a parent and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Ms. Rouse (Bellwether Education Partners) shared her experience as a partner consultant to Citizens and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Ms. McKeithen (CWC parent) shared her experience as a parent and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Ms. Bunch (CWC parent) shared her experience as a parent and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Mr. Janis (CWC parent) shared his experience as a parent and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Ms. Martinez (CWC grandparent) shared her experience as a grandparent and school volunteer and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Ms. Terhune (CWC parent) shared her experience as a parent and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Mr. Johnson (CWC parent and staff member) shared his experience as an MCSI founding member, a parent, and a staff member and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Mr. Krebs (Kansas City Girls Preparatory Academy) shared his experience as a peer charter school leader and spoke in support of the school's renewal.

Ms. Moore (CWC faculty member) shared her experience as a faculty member and shared her support for the school's renewal.

Mr. Scott thanked the public on the call for their input.

6:00 p.m. Board Interview – Citizens of the World Charter Schools – Kansas City

Mr. Scott introduced the MCPSC Board:

Mary Jane Almandoz

Susan Cole

Cathy Jo Loy

Delbert Scott

Peggy Taylor

Alisha Kotarba, Absent

Mr. Norris introduced the CWC Kansas City Board  
Maria Salcedo, Vice-Chair  
Derrick Nelson, Secretary  
Jeff Phillips, Treasurer  
Jacob Littrell  
Jim MacDonald  
Miguel Meneses  
Johna Sutton, Delayed Arrival  
Tonia Gilbert, Absent  
Luke Norris, Chair

Ms. Taylor asked how the school plans to reduce dependence on philanthropic support and increase savings opportunities? Mr. Phillips replied that some variables are out of the school's control and the Board is focusing on what we can control. For example, on the expense side, after-school care and FRL variables and on the revenue side, the school is keenly focusing on enrollment. Mr. Phillips confirmed that the plan is to reduce philanthropy percentage-wise.

Ms. Taylor asked how the school plans to increase cash reserves? Mr. Phillips responded that the school's cash position is discussed regularly and the importance is not lost on the Board. SY20 end was above 40 days, but the current state funding environment has decreased that. The Board has identified a series of 3 steps this year to shore up that decrease as well as a long-term plan to increase days of cash.

Ms. Taylor asked what the school's facility plan is; specifically, is the school landlocked? Mr. Littrell replied that the Board has explored some ideas on expanding the current building, but just launched an initiative to assess what the school's specific next step is on building expansion/relocation.

Ms. Cole asked for further explanation on "students are not yet being supported to achieve the outcomes we know they can achieve." Mr. Norris provided context on current family needs and that the Board is focused on finding and providing student supports (social workers, etc.). He also provided context on Kansas City's preschool access and explained the Board is focusing on developing a Pre-K program – internally and with partners – with an emphasis on data-driven instruction in the classroom.

Ms. Cole commented that the school fell short of state assessment goals and asked what the school's plan is for growing that over the next term? Mrs. Sutton shared the monthly Academic Excellence Committee meetings and their work and goals. Ms. Cole asked a follow-up question of, specifically looking at subgroup gaps, can the Board address that? Mrs. Sutton replied that the school has implemented new programming that focuses on ongoing data so faculty can be agile and responsive.

Mr. Scott asked the Board to please expand on being an "anti-racist" school. Mr. Norris responded that diversity is one of the school's five core values and focus on DEI is one of the school's "3 strands" in order to serve a diverse constituency. School staff began work about a year ago on DEI with deliberate investments, deliberate steps, and deliberate processes. While "anti-racist" is a newer term, it is central to what the school is. Mrs. Sutton agreed, stating that being "equitable" and "inclusive" is not enough. Mr. Nelson also shared his perspective as a professional DEI practitioner.

Ms. Almandoz asked what the school's plan for enrollment is. Mr. Norris replied that the plan is for the school to support over 670 students in a full PK-8 program throughout the charter term. Mr. Norris highlighted the school's projected enrollment. Mr. MacDonald shared the intentionality of school staff's recruitment plans and efforts.

Ms. Loy asked what the school's biggest hurdle is in facing the virtual environment? Mrs. Sutton shared the school's challenge of engagement; the foundation of engagement is genuine relationships, so the challenge is how does the school team connect with students and families at the beginning of the year that paves the way for relationship, engagement, and growth. Mr. MacDonald added that the technology divide is also a challenge.

Mr. Scott asked what the school's relationship is with CWC Schools? What extent does the CWCS relationship benefit CWCKC? Ms. Salcedo replied that the Board just finished renewing the affiliation agreement. Key benefits include trademark usage and the overall value CWCS provides through the mission/model, strategic plan, accountability, and innovation.

Mr. Scott asked the Board to confirm whether the Executive Director is a CWC Kansas City employee? Mr. Norris confirmed that once the school's charter is renewed, yes, the Executive Director will be a direct CWC Kansas City employee.

The Commission, Ms. Wahbby, and Ms. McGeehon shared gratitude to the public on the call, the CWC Kansas City Board, and CWC Kansas City staff.

Mr. Scott adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.

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