



PUBLIC NOTICE
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Directors of Citizens of the World Kansas City

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7268455026>
Passcode: 225236

Join by Phone:
(301) 715-8592 | Meeting ID: 726 845 5026
Passcode: 225236

****Please mute your microphone upon entering the meeting****

Date: Thursday, April 15th, 2021, 5:30pm

Proposed Agenda

1. Call to Order

Mr. Norris called the meeting to order at 5:33 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:

Ms. Tonia Gilbert
Mr. Jacob Littrell
Mr. Jim MacDonald (5:42 pm)
Mr. Miguel Meneses
Mr. Derrick Nelson
Mr. Luke Norris
Mr. Jeff Phillips
Ms. Maria Salcedo (5:55 pm)

Absent:

Mrs. Johna Sutton

Ms. Brandi Finocchario, Board member nominee, was also present.

Mr. Norris determined that with 6 of 9 (later 7 of 9, then 8 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. Nelson provided a second to the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

4. Public Comments

*Note: Individuals from the public will be provided up to 3 minutes to provide comments. **If you would like to request to make a public comment, please add your name in the chat section of Zoom;** the Board Chair will invite individuals by name and in order to provide comment.*

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

5. Review & Consideration of minutes from the March 18th, 2021 regular meeting of the Board

The Board did not have any comments regarding the proposed minutes from the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board.

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

6. Board Business

Mr. Norris introduced Mr. Meneses and Mr. Nelson, co-chairs of the Board Diversity Committee and reminded the Board that one of roles of the Committee is to present Board member nominations.

a. Review & Consideration of appointing Ms. Brandi Finocchario to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors

Mr. Nelson confirmed that, as shared last month, Ms. Finocchario has completed the onboarding process and Mr. Nelson recommends her for appointment to the Board. Mr. Meneses affirmed this recommendation.

Ms. Finocchario introduced herself and shared her excitement to join the Board.

Mr. Nelson moved to appoint Ms. Brandi Finocchario to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors, succeeding Mr. Littrell's expired term, and expiring in March 2024. Mr. Meneses provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

The Board welcomed Ms. Finocchario.

b. Review & Consideration of appointing Mr. Cedric Deadmon to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors

Mr. Norris shared that Mr. Deadmon withdrew his candidacy earlier this week. This results in a current vacancy and, coupled with an expected transition this summer, he shared that there are currently

two additional Board candidates in the pipeline. He encouraged Board members to continue to nominate others that may be interested and mission-aligned.

c. Recognition of departing Board members

Mr. Hile shared a video presentation from CWC Kansas City staff members thanking Mr. Littrell and Ms. Gilbert for their service on the Board.

Mr. Norris led the Board in also providing thanks to Mr. Littrell and Ms. Gilbert for their service.

(Mr. MacDonald joined 5:42pm)

d. Review & Consideration of 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar

Mr. Hile presented a revised 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar proposal, incorporating Board feedback received. Highlights include:

- 169 Instructional Days, which is above the DESE threshold for required makeup days
- Keeping the week-long breaks intact (Thanksgiving, two-week Winter, and Spring)
- Faculty & staff report Monday August 2nd, 2021
- Summer Institute is 12 days of pre-opening training and preparation
- First day of school is Thursday, August 19th
- Six Professional Development days throughout the year.

This calendar reflects an increase of four instructional days from this year and closely mirrors KCPS to accommodate families with students in both districts.

Mr. Nelson moved to approve the 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar as proposed and Mr. Phillips provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

7. Monthly Finance Report (Mr. Jeff Phillips)

a. Finance Committee Report

Mr. Phillips reported that the school ended March with cash balance of just over \$1 million. He noted there was nothing abnormal to report for Accounts Payable or liabilities owed. Year-To-Date revenues are \$4.6MM, compared to an original budget amount of \$5.2 MM, due to delayed receipt of donations. Two sizable donations (approximately \$200k) are now scheduled to hit in July instead of June, so this fiscal year may show lower than expected revenue as a result of timing. On the other hand, Year-To-Date expenses have totaled \$4.4 MM against a budget of \$4.9 MM. The school is still seeing savings recognized earlier in the year, but has noted an increase in expenses as students and staff have returned to the building. Year-To-Date Net Income is \$260k, compared to budget of \$73k. Additionally, the Finance Committee is forecasting total annual revenue of \$6.8 MM – just shy of the original budget amount, although the mix of funding has changed (lower local and state revenues, and higher federal revenue), and total annual expenses of \$6.1 MM, against a budget of \$6.5 MM, resulting in a forecasted \$512k net income. He also looks forward to paying off the CWCS start-up loan.

Mr. Phillips also noted that forecasted days of cash on hand is now trending at 73 days, above the goal of 60.

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

Mr. Phillips presented the March check register without notation; the Board had no comments.

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

[Ms. Salcedo joined 5:55pm]

Mr. Phillips also reported that a draft budget is progressing for Board review in May. He asked the Board Committee chairs to, after distribution, ensure the budget reflects the priorities they have set out for the year.

Additionally, Mr. Phillips reported that the Finance Committee has continued to discuss and consider facility planning – both short and long term.

8. Other Board Committee Reports

a. Governance Committee (Ms. Maria Salcedo)

i. Review & Consideration of Board By-law updates

Ms. Salcedo reported that the Governance Committee has a working draft of bylaw updates that the Committee is considering proposing. She hopes to circulate it to the Board in the near future and have it ready for consideration and approval at the May meeting. She provided an overview that the updates include:

- Setting term limits for three consecutive three-year terms
- Establishing a Board Chair-Elect designation to strengthen succession planning
- Setting a range of required Board members (not more than 11, not less than 7)

9. Executive Director's Report (Mr. Jon Hile)

Mr. Hile shared that on Tuesday, he and Mr. Norris went to the State Board of Education meeting and the Missouri State Board of Education voted unanimously to approve a five-year charter renewal for CWC Kansas City, meaning the school is chartered through the 2025-26 school year.

Mr. Norris highlighted we partnered with the Missouri Charter Public School Commission as their first school, so we are the Commission's first renewal as well. He also shared that he heard that the state has a high degree of confidence in the oversight that the Commission provides.

Mr. Hile also provided an updated on House Bill 137 – the "Funding Equity Bill." HB137 passed out of committee and out of the House floor and now moves to the Senate. Every member of the Kansas City delegation voted in favor.

Mr. Norris added that this is an opportunity for the Board to be strategic; he asked all Missouri residents (Board members, staff, and parents) to reach out and say 'thank you' to those who voted yes.

a. School Dashboard Review

Mr. Hile reported that enrollment and student demographics continue to hold steady. He also shared an overview of the current "course completion" status for virtual students and reported an

early 94.6% in-person attendance percentage. He shared gratitude to families for working hard to make sure students are in school when they should be.

He shared that IXL engagement is also holding steady and invited Dr. Droege to share top-line data from the NWEA assessment that was recently administered.

b. Review of IXL/NWEA Assessment Data

Dr. Droege reminded the Board that, prior to switching into hybrid, the school offered a NWEA Winter administration across 3rd – 5th grades; as the school moved into hybrid learning, NWEA was offered to 6th – 7th grades and staff are currently administering to 2nd graders. Due to the timing and administration/collection variances, each element is valuable, but a little different from each other.

Dr. Droege noted that “on/above” grade level specifically means “on/above the norm set by NWEA in the prior year’s administration.”

In Reading:

- 38-48% of upper Elementary on/above grade level, even after a year of virtual learning
- In Middle School, 29% of 6th graders and 43% of 7th graders on/above compared to last year’s norms. She noted that these 6th graders have never been in-person at Citizens and 7th graders for only for less than a year.

In Math – lower scores were seen:

- 28%-40% of Upper Elementary students on/above grade level
- 21%-26% of Middle School students on/above grade level.

Dr. Droege summarized a high-level overview of the apples-to-oranges comparisons of the NWEA scores over the past 3 years of assessments:

- This year’s Math achievement level is very similar to last year’s; and this year’s Reading level actually shows gains.
- The school has lots of work to do, but not as severely as we feared from national polling/forecasting.

Dr. Droege shared her next steps include diving deeper into the data to break down growth and achievement data by student categories (gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, engagement in virtual instruction) and taking a serious look into how NWEA correlates with IXL (predictive or complementary pathway to understanding achievement and growth). She affirmed that wants to plan how the school can utilize these assessments in tandem to best position students for the MO MAP.

Mr. Norris asked what else the school can pull from this at a classroom level to help us hone in on best practices. Dr. Droege replied that NWEA allows us to narrow parameters down to the classroom level and work has begun on determining causation. At the grade- and school-level, that work is done outside the classroom, then shared back with faculty through approaches like professional development and curriculum evaluation.

Mr. Norris asked if the school can apply NWEA data to support the claim that students who are with Citizens longer perform better? Dr. Droege affirmed that NWEA does, but IXL does not; that work is in early stages at this point.

Mr. Norris asked if it is fair to summarize these results as “we saw less slide than anticipated and students that were ahead stayed ahead and behind stayed behind?” Dr. Droege replied that the first part (less slide than anticipated) is true; the second part needs more evaluation at the individual level.

Mr. MacDonald asked if NWEA results be provided to parents? Dr. Droege answered yes, and she is working through how to present it to parents in context of the past year's virtual environment as well as ensuring the results they reflect the breadth of growth that students have demonstrated – possibly by adjusting the end-of-year progress reports.

c. Reopening Update

Mr. Hile recapped the past month's data and shared the following data points from March 15 to 22 to 29 to April 5:

- Positive Test Rate: 10.8% - 10.1% - 8.2% - 8.1%
- Average Cases/14 Days: 411 – 374 – 333 - 347
- Average Cases/100k People: 84 – 76 – 68 – 71

Mr. Hile also reported that every staff member that wants access to the vaccine at least has their first, if not their second, over the past month. The Virtual:In-Person student breakdown remained unchanged at 30% Virtual:70% In-Person.

Mr. Hile gave an overview of the Summer School planning:

- Six weeks (June 7 – July 15)
- 8:00a – 1:00p Monday-Thursday, with Fridays off (not virtual); except the week of July 4th will be Tuesday-Friday.
- 15-20 classrooms K-8, serving between 180-220 students
- Dual focus between academics and a comfortable return to school with fun and enrichment
- Partnership with two providers for on-site (Upper Room) and off-site (Campfire) after-school and Friday enrichment opportunities for students.
- For every 10 students who complete Summer School, that translates to 1 additional ADA for next school year.

Mr. Norris asked how many summer school teachers are CWC teachers? Mr. Hile replied that the vast majority will be CWC faculty and there will be a few of our regular substitutes that will take classroom positions. He is also working with two coordinators from our faculty to support the program, as well as all 12-month academic employees.

d. 2021-2022 Student Recruitment Update (Mrs. Christle Reed)

Mr. Hile reminded the Board that enrollment this year will be a “run through the tape” focus through August.

Ms. Reed provided a grade-level enrollment update for 2021-2022, with a focus specifically on needing to recruit at least 30 additional Kindergarteners. She reported additional mailers dropped last week and she hosted a Kindergarten enrollment fair on-site at the Broadway campus.

Ms. Reed shared that, broadly speaking, Kansas City as a whole is still down 25%-30% in Kindergarten enrollment year-to-year.

Mr. Norris shared that it is concerning that two years ago, the school opened 4 classrooms, so from two years ago, the school is 60 seats behind; what are the specifics driving that change in consumer behavior? Ms. Reed replied that she is seeing a high number of parents who are not willing to move schools due to an older sibling. She is also seeing a "delay" on starting the process (i.e. doing tours now instead of last November). Dr. Droege also shared that the four-classroom cohort has moved forward now to 2nd grade, which is overfilled – we have not seen the attrition out of that group of students. Mr. Hile underscored that recruitment will go through the summer and affirmed that the challenge is for the school to push out our unique message and examine how we are telling our story; in effect, playing to our strengths from a marketing perspective as best as we can.

Mr. Norris reiterated that he would love to see more market numbers from ShowMeKC Schools and SchoolAppKC.

Mr. Phillips asked what the timing is that the school would consider flexing classrooms based on enrollment? Mr. Hile replied that enrollment will drive the budget during the next month, but the school's history shows enrollment will continue up to and beyond the first day of school. He suggested discussing further in Finance Committee about setting pressure breakers for decisions.

e. 2021-2022 Student Re-Enrollment Update (Mr. Andrew Johnson)

Mr. Johnson shared that 88% of current families have completed re-enrollments and he continues to focus on tracking down the remaining pending families. Mr. Johnson reported very strong rising 2-3-4-5th grade numbers and especially highlighted the school's first year having rising 6th graders. He plans to continue to focus on sustaining relationships over the summer to ensure Day 1 arrival.

Mr. Norris requested Mr. Hile provide the Board a weekly activity report for recruitment/enrollment; it is a place the Board needs close clarity. Mr. Norris asked for 6-8 weeks of those and Mr. Hile agreed.

10. 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. Norris Invited Mr. Hile into Closed Session.

Mr. Meneses moved to go into Closed Session and Mr. MacDonald provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

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

Mr. Norris 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.

12. Adjourn

Mr. Nelson moved to adjourn and Ms. Salcedo provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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