



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

Location: Westport Plexpod, Meeting Room #2-I
300 E. 39th St.
Kansas City, MO 64111

Online Link (Audio Only):
meet.google.com/aia-znus-mgy
(252) 628-9173 | PIN: 178 892 761#

Date: Thursday, June 15th, 2023, 6:00pm

Proposed Minutes

1. Call to Order

Dr. Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Dr. Hicks welcomed the members of the public in attendance and gave an overview of the meeting order.

2. Roll Call by Board Chair

Dr. Hicks called roll as follows:

Present:

Hon. Ardie Bland
Ms. Brandi Finocchario
Dr. Asia Foster
Mrs. Angela DeWilde
Dr. Sarah Hicks
Mr. Jim MacDonald

Absent:

Mrs. Lydia Butler
Ms. Selina Rios

Ms. Finocchario determined that with 6 of 8 Board Members present, a quorum is established for purposes of holding the meeting and voting.

3. Review & Consideration of Proposed Agenda *[Board Action]*

Dr. Miles said that since Ms. Rios is not present, we can remove the 7-b1 item ("Discussion of pre-Board Retreat Equity Training Survey"). The Board did not have any other comments regarding the proposed agenda.

Mrs. DeWilde moved to approve the agenda as modified and Ms. Finocchario provided a second to the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

4. Public Comments

Dr. Hicks introduced herself, thanked the public, and provided an overview of the public comment process and guidelines. Dr. Hicks then invited public comment; no public comment was made.

5. Consent Agenda *[Board Action]*

- a. Review & Consideration of minutes from the May 18th, 2023 regular meeting of the Board
- b. School Dashboard
- c. Strategic Plan Dashboard
- d. Board & Committee Calendar
- e. Staffing Report

Dr. Hicks presented the Consent Agenda and asked the Board if any member wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda in order to further discuss and/or solely vote on that item; no member did.

Mrs. DeWilde moved to approve the Consent Agenda as proposed and Ms. Finocchario provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

6. New Business *[Information/Discussion]*

- a. Presentation of Missouri Charter Public School Commission Annual Report (Mrs. Martha McGeehon)

Dr. Hicks welcomed Mrs. McGeehon from the Missouri Charter Public School Commission to present the Commission's 2022-23 Annual Report for the school. Mrs. McGeehon introduced herself as the Deputy Director of Accountability for the Commission. She shared that the Commission realized that historically the Commission has simply been sending their annual report, but that communication has been one-way with limited amount of two-way communication opportunities.

Mrs. McGeehon reminded the Board that performance standards are established in the Performance Framework and based on national best practices as well as state statutes. Their Annual Reports are produced using data collected in the monitoring plan and the standards established in the Performance Framework; these reports are then distributed to governing boards and posted on the Commission's website. It is a comprehensive report that details a school's performance throughout the preceding year in the following areas:

- o Academics
- o Financial Management
- o Learning Environment
- o Governance
- o Operations

The annual report is a comprehensive body of evidence designed to tell the Board and the public how well a school is working towards meeting statutes, provisions of their performance contracts, and the Commission's policies. Its purpose is to create forward-thinking conversations around school performance with individual school boards and MCPSC as it relates to the conditions of the school's contract and student success.

Specifically to Citizens, at a high level, this report reflects the first year of the current renewal contract (2021-22). There was a delay in the report due to the delay in MAP data; Mrs. McGeehon does not expect this long of a delay in the future.

She shared strengths of Citizens, including:

- Math and ELA Proficiency moving in positive direction
- Academic growth is comparatively exceeding peer schools.
- Operational compliance continues to be strong.

She also shared areas for Improvement for Citizens, including:

- Financial sustainability measures (nothing this was based on FY22 and acknowledging Citizens' financial position has strengthened in FY23).
- Academic performance between student groups, specifically the difference between white and non-white students.
- Board attendance

Mrs. McGeehon's recommendations on "where does the Board go from here?" include discussing and answering the following:

- Does the Board, collectively, have a clear understanding of both where they are and where they expect to be?
- How does Citizens' most recent academic results compare to the Performance Contract expectations?
- Does the Board's Annual Calendar force the Board to routinely examine the key elements of the Annual Report?
- Does the Board collectively understand what it will take in resources and support to accelerate achievement gains?
- Based on the Annual Report, what are the Board's and school's most important levers of focus moving toward renewal?

Dr. Miles asked if DESE will be releasing FY23's academic/MAP data earlier? Mrs. McGeehon replied that she has heard that DESE will be securely releasing results to schools much sooner in the year with public release in September.

Mrs. DeWilde asked Mrs. McGeehon to give a reminder overview of the charter contract period. Mrs. McGeehon replied that it is a 5-year charter renewal. At the end of Year 3 (FY24), joint collaboration planning will begin, Year 4 (FY25) is the prep year, then Year 5 (FY26) will present to the State Board of Education for renewal.

The Board had no further questions or discussion and thanked Mrs. McGeehon for her time and presentation.

Dr. Miles told the Board that the Commission has not yet sent a final copy of the report, but she will send the draft report to the Board shortly.

7. Board Committee Business & Reports

a. Finance & Operations Committee (Mrs. Lydia Butler)

i. Review & Consideration of Monthly Financials (May 2023), including Check Register [Board Action]

Mr. Brennan presented the May Financial Report and stated that the Finance Committee did not note anything as out of order on the Check Register or Accounts Payable.

Mr. Brennan shared Page 6's Balance Sheet, showing a current Cash Balance of just shy of \$1.5m, with a projected year-end balance of \$1.6m (resulting in 89 days of cash).

Page 7's Income Statement shows:

- Year-to-date revenue of \$6.6m, against a budget of \$5.9m
- Year-to-date expenses of \$6.0m, against a budget of \$5.9m.
- Net Income of \$589k, against a budget of \$43k.
- Forecasted year-end revenue of \$7.4m, against a budget of \$6.6m.
- Forecasted year-end expenses of \$6.6m, against a budget of \$6.4m.
- Forecasted year-end Net Income of \$752k against a budget of \$140k.

He asked if the Board had any questions or discussions; the Board had none.

Mr. MacDonald moved to approve the May Financial Report and Check Register as proposed and Dr. Foster provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

b. Educational Equity Committee (Ms. Selina Rios)

i. Review of 2022-23 Spring NWEA Assessment Data [Information/Discussion]

Dr. Miles presented the Spring NWEA Assessment results. She reminded the Board that all data connects back to one of the school's charter goals: "Academic Goal 5: **60%** of CWCKC students will meet both Math and ELA projected growth targets as measured by the NWEA MAP assessment each year." Specifically for 2022-23, this year's goal was:

45% in Math growth score,

45% in ELA growth score,

No more than **10%** difference in student grouping variance.

Overall, students' performed as follows:

- Math: 11% advanced, 25% proficient (36% A+P), 25% basic, 39% below basic
- ELA: 19% advanced, 18% proficient (37% A+P), 24% basic, 38% below basic

By grade level, in Math, 3rd-8th performed relatively similarly with 3rd grade performing best (32% advanced+proficient, the highest percentage; and 37% performing below basic; the lowest percentage). Grades 4 and 8 are a concern with 64-65% performing below basic.

In ELA, 3rd (42% advanced+proficient) and 5th grade (44% advanced+proficient) performed the best, while 3rd, 4th, and 6th having 36-39% performing below basic.

Pivoting from achievement to growth, the data is pretty consistent and shows that while the school is not seeing proficiency data yet, the underlying growth data is stronger, pointing to proficiency gains soon. Overall, the percentage of students meeting growth targets rose from

45% to 46% (2021-22 to 2022-23) in Math and from 40% to 48% in ELA. The 2022-23 target was 45% growth, which the school hit. However, Dr. Miles noted that next year's target is 55% growth, which is ambitious.

Dr. Miles presented a further breakdown of growth data by subject, by grade level. She reminded the Board that the school did purchase a new ELA curriculum last year and noted that 5th grade specifically committed to it, and that showed in the results. All grades will be held accountable for adhering to the curriculum next year.

Pivoting to student subgroup (race/ethnicity) performance, Dr. Miles reminded the Board that the charter goal was <10% variance. In actuality, White students are outperforming non-White students consistently in both Math and ELA. She is focusing and mulling over how to target and support these subgroups without specifically separating them. Dr. Hicks suggested lots of pre-assessments, almost at the per-unit level.

Then looking at student subgroup (race/ethnicity) growth data, the slight increase (1%) in overall Math growth was driven largely by Hispanic/Latino students, with White students declining and Black and Mixed Race students largely remaining flat. ELA growth showed strong gains by Hispanic, Mixed Race, and White students, with a small (2%) decrease by Black students. In both measures, the school would just meet the charter goal.

Dr. Miles lastly presented a breakdown of additional student subgroup performance and growth.

Overall, Dr. Miles shared her takeaways as follows:

- There is a strong need to increase fidelity of Tier I (classroom) instruction. Teachers must teach with fidelity. This is her and Mr. Butler's top area of focus this summer to prepare for the year.
- There is a need to implement a data collection system to assist teachers in the identification of trends within classroom
- There is a need for school leadership to engage in routine but accountable conversations with teachers about student growth
- She believes the significant numbers of students performing at "Below Basic" is a reflection of the instruction, not of the students.

Dr. Hicks asked Dr. Miles to remind her and the Board what Math curriculum the school uses; Dr. Miles replied "Everyday Math." Dr. Miles further noted that she will be asking Dr. Hicks to assist with a curriculum audit in FY24 to help make a decision on curriculum usage for 2024-25.

Dr. Hicks then followed up by asking if technology is being used effectively to supplement Everyday Math? Dr. Miles said no; technology integration is a known drawback of Everyday Math.

ii. Review & Consideration of Charter Academic Goal Revisions *[Board Action]*

Dr. Miles shared that one of her challenges as an Executive Director is that she is consistently reporting against goals that are not clear; specifically on how the goal authors came up with the variance percentages and specifically what those percentages should be comparing against. She even reached out and talked with those authors, and they also were unclear. That led Dr. Miles to have a discussion with Mrs. McGeehon at the Commission about revising and clarifying those goals, and then the Education Equity Committee had further discussion over the past two

months. Dr. Miles reported that the Committee landed on proposing changes to the following two academic goals:

Current Academic Goal 3: *CWCKC will work intentionally and effectively to close differences in student performance among CWCKC student groupings. By year five of this charter, performance of CWCKC students of color on the Missouri MAP assessment will have no more than a 5% variance in both ELA and Math assessment.*

Proposed Revised Academic Goal 3: *By the fifth year of this charter, the variance between each racial/ethnic student grouping (e.g. black, hispanic, multi-racial, etc.) when compared to "all students" will be less than 5%, with a progression as follows:*

YEAR	ELA Student Groupings Variance	Math Student Groupings Variance
Year 1: 2020-2021	<12%	<20%
Year 2: 2021-2022	<10%	<17%
Year 3: 2022-2023	<8%	<12%
Year 4: 2023-2024	<5%	<10%
Year 5: 2024-2025	<5%	<5%

Broad Board discussion was held regarding Academic Goal 3, before also discussing Goal 5, as follows:

Current Academic Goal 5: *60% of CWCKC students will meet both Math and ELA projected growth targets as measured by the NWEA MAP assessment each year.*

Proposed Revised Academic Goal 5: *Sixty percent of CWCKC students within each racial/ethnic groupings (e.g. black, hispanic, multi-racial, etc.) will meet both ELA and Math **growth targets** as measured by the NWEA MAP assessments at the end of each school year, with a progression as follows:*

YEAR	NWEA MAP	NWEA Student Grouping Variance
Year 1: 2020-2021	Math: 35% ELA: 35%	No more than 15% Below
Year 2: 2021-2022	Math: 40% ELA: 40%	No more than 10% Below
Year 3: 2022-2023	Math: 45% ELA: 45%	No more than 10% Below
Year 4: 2023-2024	Math: 55% ELA: 55%	No more than 7% Below
Year 5: 2024-2025	Math: 60% ELA: 60%	No more than 5% Below

Dr. Miles shared the rationale for both changes is that, historically, Black students have been an underserved population and therefore have been unable to meet a proportional percentage of proficiency compared to any other student grouping or the whole school population on the ELA & Math NWEA Map. In comparison, other BIPOC students and White students are either trending closer or exceeding the goal.

In the Board discussion, Dr. Miles clarified that the wording for Academic Goal 5 is similar to the current goal, except utilizing NWEA data. She further noted that her goal is to clarify the goal, not change the goal.

The Board continued to hold discussion, including Dr. Hicks and Mrs. DeWilde noting that Proposed Goal #5 does not state anything about a variance and asked if the second column on table should be removed from the proposal.

Mrs. DeWilde specifically asked what the school is measuring on Goal 3? Consensus was reached that Goal 3 measures the variance of each group of students of color **performance** on MAP compared to [all students] while Goal 5 measures the variance of each group of students of color **growth** on NWEA compared to [all students].

As a result, Mrs. DeWilde then requested the proposed Goal 3 as follows:

Proposed Revised Academic Goal 2: *By the fifth year of this charter, the variance in student achievement performance between each racial/ethnic student grouping (e.g. black, hispanic, multi-racial, etc.) when compared to "all students" will be less than 5%, with a progression as follows:*

YEAR	ELA Student Groupings Variance	Math Student Groupings Variance
Year 1: 2020-2021	<12%	<20%
Year 2: 2021-2022	<10%	<17%
Year 3: 2022-2023	<8%	<12%
Year 4: 2023-2024	<5%	<10%
Year 5: 2024-2025	<5%	<5%

Mrs. DeWilde moved to approve the Academic Goal #3 modification as proposed and Dr. Foster provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

The Board held further discussion regarding Goal 5. The Board noted that the existing goal is written clear as a 60% growth goal and does not denote between subgroups, however the supporting table does – therein lies the confusion. Historically, Dr.Miles has reported that the school has only “hit the goal” as written; changing this mid-charter may not be best. There was Board consensus to leave the table’s confusion, because the goal is clear as written. There is no opportunity to provide a narrative; it’s just reporting base data.

Mrs. DeWilde moved to not approve the Academic Goal #5 modification and Dr. Foster provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

c. Executive Committee (Ms. Brandi Finocchario)

- i. Review & Consideration of appointing Mr. Roosevelt Lyons to the Board of Directors, with an initial scheduled term expiring March 31, 2024. *[Board Action]*

Mrs. DeWilde moved to appoint Mr. Roosevelt Lyons to the Board of Directors, with an initial scheduled term expiring March 31, 2024 and Hon. Bland provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

Dr. Hicks welcomed Mr. Lyons to the Board.

- ii. Executive Director Annual Evaluation, to be discussed in Closed Session *[Information/Discussion]*

As a point of order, Dr. Hicks confirmed that the Board will provide Dr. Miles her annual evaluation in Closed Session.

8. Executive Director's Report (Dr. Danielle Miles) *[Information/Discussion]*

- a. Special Education Report (Ms. Sara Nelson)

Ms. Nelson introduced herself as the Director of Special Education.

She shared the mission of the Special Education department with the Board: Ensure life success for all students through providing quality instruction to all students in the least restrictive environment. Support all students with IEPs to master strategies and skills necessary to compensate for their disability, enabling them to meet the goals described in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) as well as to have access to grade-level standards in the least restrictive environment.

Ms. Nelson gave an overview of her team, both employees as well as contracted related services.

She then shared student demographics, highlighting that 2022-23 boasted 65 students with an IEP (16% of student census); this is higher than state average (~13%). Additionally, while this was a slightly lower physical count than 2021-22, it was a larger percentage of the overall student census.

Mr. Lyons asked how Citizens compares to other charter schools? Ms. Nelson did not have that number offhand, but the school does see a lot of midyear transfers in that come with IEPs. Dr. Miles will further research, but agrees that she believes Citizens has a higher count than peer schools.

Ms. Nelson additionally reported her student count that receives related services, as follows:

- Speech Language: 19
- Occupational Therapy: 9
- Physical Therapy: 2
- Orientation & Mobility: 4
- Vision: 5
- Counseling: 4

She noted there is still a wide developmental range within those related services (i.e. some vision impaired students are fluent with Braille; others are just beginning).

Ms. Nelson then recapped her 2022-23 goals and objectives, then shared her 2023-24 goals and objectives, as follows:

Inclusion

- Increase meaningful general ed participation
- Increase collab with organizations such as DSI
- Increase culture of inclusion
- Increase knowledge of importance and reasoning behind inclusion

Wilson Reading

- Tier 3 Intervention
- SPED teachers trained
- Implementation plan for 3 years

- Universal Screening - Miles noted that we're going to be using NWEA Fluency for students K-3 to screen for dyslexia.

Café

- Increase Community Participation
- Training for Students
- Implementation plan for 3 years
- Screening

Mrs. DeWilde asked if Wilson Reading is only for students identified with dyslexia or can that program be used for all struggling readers? Ms. Nelson replied that broadly, yes; however, Wilson Reading has a targeted, structured program that is tailored to a specific set of students.

Dr. Miles also noted that the school is rolling out Wilson K-3 as well.

b. Update on Summer School

Dr. Miles reported on Summer School.

She shared that there are 111 students on-site as well as 10 Extended School Year students off-site. She did note that 150 students originally registered and that is what the school staffed for. The reduction is programmatically okay, but it will have a budget impact. She also confirmed the school will have a different registration/enrollment process next year.

She highlighted the many partnerships (Circle of Sisterhood, The POD, Zoomobile, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Community Garden) and activities (iFly, Rock Climbing, Water Park, Kona Ice Truck) that Mrs. Betts has coordinated. It has been very well-received by staff and students.

The Director of Summer School, Mrs. Betts, has done a great job building and creating the program and weaving academics throughout. Dr. Miles gave strong kudos to Mrs. Betts.

c. Update on Student Recruitment (Ms. Katy Lineberry)

Mrs. Lineberry reported that 379 students are in the pipeline (re-enrolled, new registered, new accepted), not including "offers." The school has not seen a strong movement on applications recently, which is typical of a June plateau; she is expecting a sharp increase in July. She checked in with staff at ShowMe KC Schools and from May 1 – now, the city is currently at 50 less Kindergarten applications year-to-year SchoolApp-wide; the whole application year is about 100 less SchoolApp-wide.

She reported that the school is in a strong position in 2nd-8th grade. The school still has a little room in 7th grade, but we have filled a new section with only 9 currently open seats. She feels confident in those numbers and her focus for summer is squarely on Kindergarten-1st grade.

Mrs. Lineberry gave an overview of the recruiting efforts. First, she prepped a welcome and overview mailer that will be sent to all PK applicants for the last 2 years. Second, she will send a general mailer to surrounding zip codes with households with kids 3-13 years old; this will drop in early July.

Finally, she asked the Board for other ideas for recruitment (tabling events, etc.) and invited them to send those ideas to her.

9. Closed Session

Pursuant to §610.021(2), and (13) RSMo, the Board Committee will enter into closed session to discuss matters related to (2) Real Estate, and (13) Individually identifiable personnel records.

a. Roll Call Vote to Enter *[Board Action]*

Hicks invited Dr. Miles & Mr. Brennan

Ms. Finocchario moved to enter Closed Session and Dr. Hicks provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved via roll call, as follows:

Hon. Ardie Bland	Aye
Ms. Brandi Finocchario	Aye
Dr. Asia Foster	Aye
Mrs. Angela DeWilde	Aye
Dr. Sarah Hicks	Aye
Mr. Jim MacDonald	Aye
Mr. Roosevelt Lyons	Aye

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

Dr. Hicks welcomed members of the public back into Open Session and reported that discussion related to (2) Real Estate, and (13) Individually identifiable personnel records. No action was taken that requires reporting.

11. Adjourn *[Board Action]*

Mr. Lyons moved to adjourn and Mrs. DeWilde provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

[/rb]