



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

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Online Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83622369043>

Passcode: UXDK8B

(301) 715-8592 | 530783

Date: Thursday, October 19th, 2023, 6:00pm

Proposed Minutes

1. Call to Order

Ms. Finocchario called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Ms. Finocchario welcomed the members of the public in attendance and gave an overview of the meeting order.

2. Roll Call by Board Chair

Ms. Finocchario called roll as follows:

Present (all via video):

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

Absent:

Ms. Selina Rios
Mr. Roosevelt Lyons

Ms. Finocchario determined that with 7 of 9 Board Members present, a quorum is established for purposes of holding the meeting and voting.

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

Ms. Butler requested that an item for Board Action "Approve additional architectural expense" be added to the Finance Committee section. Otherwise, the Board did not have any comments regarding the proposed agenda.

Hon. Bland moved to approve the agenda as modified and Dr. Hicks provided a second to the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

4. Public Comments

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

5. Consent Agenda *[Board Action]*

- a. Review & Consideration of minutes from the September 21st, 2023 regular meeting of the Board
- b. School Dashboard
- c. Strategic Plan Dashboard
- d. Board & Committee Calendar
- e. Staffing Report
- f. Events Calendar

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

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

6. New Business *[Information/Discussion]*

- a. Annual Board Member Conflict of Interest Forms due October 31

Ms. Finocchario reminded the Board that the annual Conflict of Interest Forms are due on October 31st and asked remaining Board members to submit to Mr. Brennan.

7. Board Committee Business & Reports

- a. **Finance & Operations Committee** (Mrs. Lydia Butler) *[Board Action]*
 - i. Review & Consideration of Monthly Financials (September 2023), including Check Register

Mrs. Butler then presented the September Financial Report and stated that the Finance Committee did not note anything as out of order on the Check Register or Accounts Payable.

She presented page 5's Balance Sheet, showing a current Cash Balance of just shy of \$1.7m, with a projected year-end balance of \$2.5m.

Page 6's Income Statement showed:

- Year-to-date revenue of \$1.67m, against a budget of \$1.55m.
- Year-to-date expenses of \$1.8m, against a budget of \$1.7m.
- Net Income of (-\$167k), against a budget of (-\$126k.)

- Forecasted year-end revenue of \$7.6m, against a budget of \$7.4m.
- Forecasted year-end expenses of \$6.8m, against a budget of \$6.7m.
- Forecasted year-end Net Income of \$778k against a budget of \$795k.

She noted that this reflected a current 139 projected days of cash on hand position (+2 days from last month).

Overall, Mrs. Butler reported all was good, and the school is off to good start for Quarter 1. The ADA formula is working in the school's favor, receiving more than budgeted. Federal revenue is behind forecast due to ESSER timeline. Expenses are running slightly ahead primarily due to staff benefits and an unbudgeted expense to MultiStudio for designs and test fitting for facilities.

Dr. Miles shared that leadership is working with LevelField in determining how many classrooms, etc. are needed in a potential building.

Dr. Hicks asked about the leadership training and who participated; Dr. Miles answered with who is involved and further illustrated that the training is for capacity building and grant-funded.

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

ii. Review & Consideration of additional Architectural expense for FY23

Mrs. Butler stated that the Finance Committee is asking for authorization to engage with MultiStudio to task them with test-fitting additional classroom scenarios at Broadway for the 2024-25 school year, to the cost of \$11k. Dr. Hicks asked how many spaces were being test fitted. Dr. Miles answered that one scenario is complete and they are working on how to fit mobile classrooms, and they are working on a second scenario with LevelField.

Dr. Hicks moved to approve the additional expense as proposed and Dr. Foster provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

b. **Executive Committee & Facilities Committee** (Ms. Brandi Finocchario) *[Information/Discussion]*

i. Update on Real Estate and Level Field Partnership

Ms. Finocchario deferred the bulk of this report to Closed Session. Broadly, LevelField is still looking for off-market locations; they have found one and it is "a big, fat maybe."

Otherwise, LevelField is good about keeping the team up to date. Specifically, they are engaged in conversations with IFF to ensure the school is maintaining the lease; IFF wanted to put an amendment on the lease and LevelField jumped in and is working on a solution.

ii. Discussion of Facilities Committee support

Dr. Miles reported that she is working on ways to get board members (specifically Hon. Bland and Mr. MacDonald) connected to the LevelField meetings.

iii. Discussion of Charter Schools Board Draft

Ms. Finocchario discussed the 2024 Charter School Board Draft, and announced the April 6 draft night. She would like Citizens to have a full table of Board members present and asked the Board to reach out to her or Dr. Miles in order to be part of that.

She reminded the Board that next school year, the Board will have two members who will rotate off due to being Kansas natives. Dr. Miles reached out to the charter draft organizers and confirmed that the school can get two "draft picks." The Executive Committee is evaluating a Board Matrix to narrow the type of candidate (skills, experience, etc.) desired and engage from there.

Hon. Bland said the training provided was great refresher for those who don't know a whole lot about education - information that is needed is given ahead of time and very valuable. There are two days of classes and the Board will get great candidates.

c. **Brand Identity Committee** (Ms. Angela DeWilde) *[Information/Discussion]*

i. Committee Report

Mrs. DeWilde presented a slide show with a "Brand Identity" overview, a new Board committee established in August. Their purpose is to ensure oversight and provide direction regarding the relationship between CWCKC and CWCS National.

The Committee's first meeting built member understanding of this relationship. As a reminder, CWCS National is based in California and has a small network of schools. Mrs. Laura Furlong is the CEO of CWCS.

Mrs. DeWilde highlighted specific sections of our licensing agreement, particularly:

- Section 6.1, the terms of agreement,
- Section 6.4, the fees of the agreement (3% for "The Marks" and 2% for "CWC Network Services")
- Section 6.4, the expiration of the agreement (it expires June 30, 2026 and will renew if nothing is done). There is an option though for the CWCKC Board to vote to terminate the agreement.

Deliverables (supports) are identified on a yearly basis by CWCS and CWCKC.

Mrs. DeWilde showed the history of payments from CWCKC to CWCS since the beginning of the partnership, and showed that CWCKC is projected to pay \$290k in 2023-2024.

Dr. Foster noted the \$500k termination fee and questioned why the school would have to pay that if the contract ends of natural causes. Mrs. DeWilde said it was under Section 6.2c "in order for licensed served to recoup lost investments, licensee should pay licenser this money within 10 calendar days."

Dr. Foster further asked if this is based on the first two years of not being charged, why/where that number comes from, and how many years of a contract would it take to negate this loss they are claiming. Mr. MacDonald asked if the amount goes down under certain circumstances. Mrs. DeWilde replied that the agreement reads the termination fee “shall be reduced by \$250k after the initial term of this agreement,” meaning that after another 5-year agreement the termination fee would be reduced to \$250k.

Dr. Foster asked Dr. Miles if she has a specific list of network services that CWCS is providing and is that list available to the Board. Dr. Miles spoke on those services and showed the list to the Board.

The services for 2022-23 include Core Value Awards, Adult Development, Instructional Coaching, Roots, Foundational Literacy Codification support, Learning Review, DEIB/ABAR. Dr. Miles noted her trip to California where the goals were laid out and Dr. Miles asked Mrs. Furlong specifically how CWCS is supporting CWCKC.

The services for 2023-24 include Graduate Dispositions Focus, Strengthening Evidence-Driven Practices, Roots Program Support and Improvement, Adult Development, Other Strategic and Innovative Opportunities. Dr. Miles spoke on each topic and how she is seeing them implemented at the school.

Hon. Bland asked Dr. Miles for her candid opinion about what the Board should look forward to at renewal. Dr. Miles demurred by requesting that any further discussion on next steps have counsel present for. Hon. Bland also stated he would like a better idea of the money involved first.

Dr. Hicks asked if this topic has been discussed on the leadership team. Dr. Miles confirmed it has and she is mulling the best way to collect official opinions and will discuss that at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Dr. Miles also confirmed she is looking into how to request an itemized list of all the training/coaching CWCKC has received and the standard fee attached to each.

d. **Educational Equity Committee** (Ms. Selina Rios) *[Information/Discussion]*

i. Presentation of Fall 2023 NWEA Data

Dr. Miles presented the Fall NWEA student data. Overall, students' performed as follows:

- Math: 14% advanced, 22% proficient (36% A+P), 28% basic, 36% below basic
- ELA: 15% advanced, 24% proficient (39% A+P), 26% basic, 35% below basic

By grade level, in Math, 3rd-5th performed relatively similarly (28-36% advanced+proficient) and 6th-8th also performed similarly (10-20%), but at a lower proficiency level.

In ELA, 4th continued to perform the best (53% advanced+proficient), with all other grades between 21-27% advanced+proficient.

Pivoting from achievement to growth, looking at Math, Kindergarten has the highest percentage of students on/above the national average (61%), with 1st-5th between 29-42%, and 6th-8th between 15-20%. By grade level, 6th grade had 92% of students meet their projected growth (fall

to fall), and 2nd grade had 76%. All other grades were just shy of 50%, with the exception of 3rd grade (25%).

In ELA, the data was more consistent across grade levels. 4th grade performed the best (53% on/above national average) and 2nd & 7th grade the worst (28%). Looking at growth, 8th grade had 67% of students meet their projected growth (fall to fall), and 4th grade had 62%. All other grades were close to 50%, with the exception of 6th grade (33%).

Pivoting to student subgroup (race/ethnicity) performance, Dr. Miles reminded the Board that the charter goal was <10% variance. In actuality, White students continue to outperform non-White students in ELA, although not as pronounced in Math (56% proficient+advanced for White, 51% for Mixed Race and 40% for Hispanic/Latino). In Math growth, 63% of Hispanic/Latino students met their growth target and 51% of Black/African-American students did. In ELA growth, each subgroup was between 39-55%.

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

Mr. MacDonald asked Dr. Miles to clarify "Growth Targets." Dr. Miles responded that students get a RIT score and a growth target from NWEA based on what skill level they are at. If a student hits that number, then they "hit the growth target." All students with same score will have the same target.

Dr. Miles broadly spoke that the largest question for the school is how are we going to get all of our students to hit those growth targets, specifically when black students are numerically much lower and starting that way than all other students. She is working on figuring out how to combine the different subgroups, specifically race with socioeconomic status.

She also spoke on a partnership (Instructional Partners) due to a grant from the Hall Foundation their initial walkthrough occurred in September and their internal assessment score showed that 90% of teachers were teaching to objective but our staff is not teaching to the standard.

She also reported that she is planning a teacher forum as to why the different subgroups are performing differently.

Dr. Hicks spoke on how role models matter, specifically across ethnicities.

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

Dr. Miles stated her report deals with facilities and deferred to Closed Session.

9. Closed Session

Pursuant to § 610.021(1) and (2) RSMo, the Board Committee will enter into closed session to discuss matters related to (1) Legal actions and attorney communication, and (2) Leasing, purchase, or sale of real estate

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

Dr. Hicks invited Dr. Miles to Closed Session.

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
Mrs. Lydia Butler	Aye
Mrs. Angela DeWilde	Aye
Ms. Brandi Finocchario	Aye
Dr. Asia Foster	Aye
Dr. Sarah Hicks	Aye
Mr. Jim MacDonald	Aye

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

Ms. Finocchario welcomed members of the public back into Open Session and reported that discussion related to (1) Legal actions and attorney communication, and (2) Leasing, purchase, or sale of real estate. No action was taken that requires reporting.

11. Adjourn *[Board Action]*

Mr. MacDonald moved to adjourn and Dr. Foster provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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