



**Annual Retreat of the  
Board of Directors of Citizens of the World Kansas City**

**Location:** The Offices at Park 39, Meeting Room #Annex-A  
300 E. 39<sup>th</sup> St.  
Kansas City, MO 64111

**Date:** Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 9:00am – 2:00pm

**Proposed Minutes**

**1. Retreat Working Session - Morning**

9:00a      Welcome (Dr. Danielle Miles)

Dr. Miles opened the retreat by thanking the Board for their time and presenting the purpose of today's session: To create focused time for board members to collaboratively determine the vision, set strategic goals, and clarify expectations for the board's role in the upcoming school year. The retreat aims to align the Board on key decisions and priorities, foster unity through meaningful dialogue, and set a clear course for impactful governance.

She also shared her objectives for the day:

- Establish shared vision and top priorities for 2025–26
- Discuss and determine a plan for the relationship with CWCS
- Explore long-term options including rebranding, partnerships, and pathway alignment
- Clarify operational expectations and structures to ensure alignment and momentum

9:10a      Grounding Activity (Ms. Johanna Chambers)

Ms. Chambers introduced and led the Board and attending staff through a sandtray activity.

**2. Call to Order**

Ms. Rios officially called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m.

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

### 3. Roll Call by Board Chair

Ms. Rios called roll as follows:

Present:

Hon. Ardie Bland (via Zoom)  
Ms. Sophia Bond  
Mrs. Lydia Butler  
Mrs. Angela DeWilde  
Ms. Brandi Finocchario  
Mr. Jim MacDonald  
Ms. Selina Rios

Absent:

Mr. James Brown  
Mrs. Jes Herman  
Mr. Roosevelt Lyons

Ms. Rios determined that with 7 of 10 Board Members present, a quorum is established for purposes of holding the meeting and voting.

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

Since Mr. Durphy was in attendance early, Ms. Rios proposed reordering the agenda by bringing the Closed Session discussion forward to accommodate his travel schedule.

*Mrs. Butler moved to approve the agenda as modified and Mr. MacDonald provided a second to the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.*

### 5. Public Comments

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

### 6. Consent Agenda *[Board Action]*

- a. Review & Consideration of minutes from the May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 regular meeting of the Board
- b. Review & Consideration of minutes from the May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 special meeting of the Board
- c. Strategic Plan Dashboard
- d. Board & Committee Calendar
- e. Staffing Report
- f. Events Calendar

Ms. Rios presented the Consent Agenda and asked the Board if any member wanted to remove any 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 Mrs. Butler provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.*

## 7. Closed Session

Pursuant to § 610.021(1) RSMo, the Board entered into closed session to discuss matters related to (1) Legal actions.

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

Ms. Rios invited Mr. Durphy, Dr. Miles & Mr. Brennan to Closed Session.

*Ms. Bond moved to enter Closed Session and Mr. MacDonald provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved via roll call, as follows:*

Hon. Ardie Bland	Aye
Ms. Sophia Bond	Aye
Mrs. Lydia Butler	Aye
Mrs. Angela DeWilde	Aye
Ms. Brandi Finocchario	Aye
Mr. Jim MacDonald	Aye
Ms. Selina Rios	Aye

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

Ms. Rios welcomed members of the public back into Open Session and reported that discussion related to (1) Legal Discussion. No actions were taken which require reporting.

## 9. Retreat Working Session

11:30a      Lunch  
12:45p      Board Business

### a. Review & Consideration of scheduling 2025-2026 Board of Directors Regular Meetings *[Board Action]*

Ms. Rios presented two options (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday or 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday) to the Board and shared that the Executive Committee recommends Option #1 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday).

Dr. Miles also pointed out the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June 2026 falls between Juneteenth and Father's Day, so it would be pulled forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday.

*Mrs. Bond moved to approve the first option (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays) as proposed and Ms. Bond provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.*

b. Review & Consideration of Monthly Financials (May 2025), including Check Register [Board Action]

Mrs. Butler presented the May Financial Report by noting that the FY25 operations budget (exclusive of the capital project spend) is now performing nearly \$700k better than expected, due in large part to being able to switch from FWADA to projected ADA. She noted that SpEd and transportation costs continue to prove difficult to contain, which will impact allocations to the FY26 budget later in the meeting.

She highlighted page 8's Balance Sheet, showing a current Cash Balance of over \$2.1MM, with a projected year-end balance of just over \$1.9MM.

She walked through Page 6's Income Statement, highlighting:

- Year-to-date revenue of \$7.0MM, against a budget of \$5.7MM.
- Year-to-date expenses of \$7.0MM, against a budget of \$6.3MM.
- Net Income of (-\$44k), against a budget of (-\$627k).
- Forecasted year-end revenue of \$7.6MM, against a budget of \$6.35MM.
- Forecasted year-end expenses of \$7.85MM, against a budget of \$6.9MM.
- Forecasted year-end Net Income of (-\$267k) against a budget of (-\$566k).
- A projected 88 days of cash on hand position, increasing from last month.

Lastly, she stated that the Finance Committee did not note anything as out of order on the Check Register or Accounts Payable.

*Mrs. DeWilde moved to approve the May Financial Report and Check Register as proposed and Ms. Bond provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.*

c. Review & Consideration of 2025-2026 Annual Budget [Board Action]

Mrs. Butler gave a high-level overview of the budget (building on the detailed presentation from the May meeting). The school is planning on an increased state-payment, increased enrollment, and increased attendance. There have been a few minor changes to this final draft, especially including an updated Operation Breakthrough enrollment projection.

For the most part, FY26 will be a balanced operational budget (Net income of \$92k), before any additional potential fee payments, which are included for the Board's awareness.

Projected Days of Cash is 64 days (inclusive of all potential fee payments), which is as-planned, and higher than the school's 60-day requirement. However, the FY26 cash position is projected to be the pro-forma's low point, will be improved with any fee reductions in FY26, then will steadily improve over the 5-year pro-forma.

Ms. Bond asked for context on a specific line item increase; Mr. Brennan provided detail.

Mrs. DeWilde confirmed if CWCS' regular annual fee was included; Mr. Brennan answered.

Mrs. DeWilde asked if the staff salary expenses reflected Dr. Miles' requested increases? Dr. Miles confirmed they did.

Mrs. DeWilde asked for context on why the private grants and donations budget decreased. Mr. Brennan replied that the FY26 budget reflects a decrease from FY25 actual, but not from FY25 budget; in fact, FY26 budget actually increased from FY25 budget. Additionally, the school already has line-of-sight to this entire budget amount.

The Board held discussion on projected broader Federal revenue; no changes were made.

*Mrs. DeWilde moved to approve the FY26 budget as proposed and Ms. Bond provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.*

12:15p Strategic Priorities (Dr. Danielle Miles)

Dr. Miles reminded the Board that her working strategic priorities (originally presented at the 2024 Board Retreat) are in the buckets of "Restorative Community," "Holistic Learning," and "Leadership Essentials." She recapped progress toward those priorities that occurred in 2024-25.

She then presented her specific priorities for 2025-26, as follows:

#### Restorative Community

- Train another adult in mediation
- Continue to partner with CCR for a Restorative Practice Specialist
- Continue strategic staff circles on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds of the month
- Refine discipline practices
- Send 15 staff members to Conscious Discipline
- Examine staff policies

#### Holistic Learning

- Identify and support one focused-ELA and one focused-Math goal based on standards for each grade
- Additionally, create one social emotional goal per grade level
- Attend a teacher training that focuses on Identity that transcends groups

#### Leadership Essentials

- Middle school start an advisory team
- Continue to develop leaders for Friday Morning Sing
- Support the Student Activities Coordinator – responsible for establishing relationship with partners and creative avenues for student leadership.

Mr. MacDonald asked what does accountability and, more importantly, support look like for teachers to ensure they meet the one focused ELA- and Math-goal? Dr. Miles replied that the Principals and Director of Curriculum & Instruction will build that out over the

summer in order to make it ready for the faculty. One of the reasons this Director position was created was to ensure this support is provided for every teacher to meet their goal.

Dr. Miles pivoted and discussed priorities for beyond 2025-26. She presented two high-level pathways forward: as a standalone school and in some type of partnership with another existing school. She presented a macro SWOT analysis of each options.

The Board discussed each option, especially the particulars of the second. While keeping both options open, the Board encouraged Dr. Miles to obtain more information and interest about the partnership option with the expectation that it would not be in place until the 2026-27 school year.

1:00p Board Committees & Expectations (Ms. Selina Rios)

In light of time, Ms. Rios tabled this discussion until the next meeting.

1:45p Reflection & Closing

Chambers led a closing activity, tying back to the original sandtray.

#### **10. Adjourn** *[Board Action]*

*Ms. Finocchiaro moved to adjourn and Ms. Bond provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining. The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm.*

[/rb]