

# October 2020 PSCS Board Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2020, 6:00 PM,  
PSCS, 9300 Bob Beatty Rd, Charlotte, NC 28269  
Zoom Meeting

## ROLL CALL

### Board Members Present

- Abigail Jennings, Ananth Nilakantan, Barbara Ann Temple, Peter Blumenfeld, Jeanne Bryne, Erik Giles,

### Board Members Present Absent

- Kim Champion, Will Weaver

### Administration Present

- Becky Friend, Erin McDonald, Randolph Lewis

### Guests

- Derek Morrow, Jenna Richard, Silas Watson, Anne Fell Yampolsky, Kara Smith, Margaret Moose, Michael Rothstein, Christa Davenport

## CALL TO ORDER

Abigail Jennings established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

## PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no notable discussions or motions. Jeanne Bryne made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Peter Blumenfeld seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Erik Giles presented the revision to the Committees and Task Force Policy. Erik Giles made a motion to approve the revised Committees and Task Force Policy. Barbara Ann Temple seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Erik shared the new Social Justice Committee sub-committee is up and running with the following members:

- Chairperson: Cindy M. Friday, Ed.S, LPC - Dean of Student Services for PSCS
- Erik Giles - Vice-Chair of the Board, Co-founder of PSCS, and Chair of the Governance Committee, and a Pioneer Springs parent
- Becky Friend, Ed.D - Director of Operations for Pioneer Springs
- James T. Freeman, PhD., LCSW, MBA - Associate Professor of Social Work at Johnson C. Smith University
- De'Onn Griffin, Ph.D., Senior Director of Research at Gartner
- Lucretia Berry, Ph.D. - Brownicity Co-founder and Curriculum Specialist for Community School of Davidson
- Pam Jones - Co-founder of Unity in Community
- Clayton Bergquam - PSCS parent
- Abigail Jennings - Chairperson of the Board, Co-founder of PSCS, and Pioneer Springs parent of two students

The sub-committee is meeting monthly and reviewing all aspects of PSCS in regard to diversity and social justice issues within our school.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Ananth Nilakantan presented the August and September 2020 Financial Statement and Balance Sheet. Erik Giles made a motion to approve the August 2020 Financial Summary and Balance Sheet. Sandy Knox seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ananth Nilakantan presented the September 2020 Financial Statement and Balance Sheet. Peter Blumenfeld made a motion to approve the September 2020 Financial Summary and Balance Sheet. Erik Giles seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ananth then reviewed the 2020 Audit draft and explained that the 990 would be based on the audit details. Barbara Ann Temple made a motion to approve the 2020 Audit. Sandy Knox seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Abigail presented the 2020-21 Revised Budget based on the final enrollment and updated expenses. Jeanne Bryne made a motion to approve the revised budget. Sandy Knox seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE**

Jeanne Bryne provided an update to the proposed AEC Goals, which was to table the research and development for a pre-school to the following school year due to the additional space requirements needed for social distancing requirements.

Jeanne announced the formation of the following sub-committees and their chairs within AEC:

Audie McGinnis (High School Focus)

- Focused on enrollment and robust academic program
- Developing formal and informal conversations with potential partners for each pathway

Michelle Rothchild (Academic Growth)

- Focus on EC students being more successful o EOG
- Meeting set for the end of Oct.

Heidi Magi (Middle School Focus)

- Focus on instructional modalities and developing mascot and traditions
- Will include students and staff

Kathryn Bentley (Professional Development Scholarships)

- Review and revise current scholarship application
- Create new judge panel to review scholarships

## **FACILITIES TASK FORCE**

Peter Blumenfeld provided a construction update for the Middle School. The TCO has been received, which allows for occupancy, and the final CO should be received soon. For the high

school plans, the civil engineering work is in progress. Renovations to the castle are in planning and bidding stages.

Sub-committees have been formed as follows: Sustainability, Campus Trails, and Maintenance. Although the work for the new sub-committees will commence in January once the current facilities projects have been completed, we are pleased to announce the addition of Aleita Keziah, a professional facilities manager who will be working on the Maintenance Sub-committee to assist in developing a comprehensive campus repairs and maintenance plan.

## **MARKETING TASK FORCE**

Barbara Ann Temple provided an update on the Marketing Task Force Plan and shared that our social media focus is at a new level of success with daily postings and FB ads. We hired Jenny Lyon as a marketing consultant and to increase awareness of PSCS and grow our online presence. Videos are being created and posted on various subjects to help connect with the internal and external community. Sub-committees have been formed to address the MTF Goals as follows:

**Social Justice Communications**, to create messaging on the work of the Social Justice Sub-committee - Chairperson Heidi Magi

**PSCS Educational Offerings**, to provide communications on the educational programs within PSCS - Chairperson Susan Montague

**Enrollment**, to achieve 100% enrollment K-10 for 21-22 - Chairperson Erin McDonald

**Fundraising & Sponsor Stewardship**, to raise \$102K via marketing, communications, subcommittee work for fundraisers, corporate sponsorships, and private donations and develop a strategic plan for donor solicitation, sponsorships, and stewardship - Chairperson Margaret Anne Moose

## **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

### **Advancement**

Erin McDonald thanked Anne for the great work she is doing on social media and the website. We reached full enrollment this year with 440 students. Videos are posted to our Pioneer Springs YouTube account. We are now in open enrollment and marketing efforts are shifting to attract to the 2021-22 lottery.

### **Facilities**

Randolph Lewis reported there is a lot going on within the interior and exterior spaces on campus.

On the interior:

- We're readying classrooms for the return of students
- New collaborative furnishings for Hive classrooms
- Big thanks to Peter for connecting us to the State surplus inventory at UNCC. We were able to purchase many new furnishings at a very reduced price.
- Working to reduce/remove storage pods and mini-storage now that facilities are built
- All windows in the Croft Schoolhouse have been addressed and are fully operational
- Wifi has been upgraded through Erate and outdoor access points installed for full wifi throughout campus and a new parking lot hot-spot established
- Working on castle upfits and improvements

On the exterior:

- The bond-funded wishlist items are being completed including new low-ropes course features, fencing, and outdoor learning spaces
- Drainage and grading work

- Trail building and plans
- Shade sail coming soon for Croft
- New outdoor amphitheater under construction behind the castle

### **Operations**

Becky Friend reported Pioneer Springs was the only school in NC to receive the second-part of the Digital Teaching and Learning Grant. 9 grants were given in total, 8 to school districts, and 1 to PSCS! The grant will be given through a 2 year distribution of approximately \$25,000 each year. Monies will be used for the installation of a top-tier technology lab to support the use of digital portfolios in middle and high school this year and expand that model into 3-5th grades next year. This is a continuation of the work which began two years ago when the school was awarded the first phase of the grant.

Becky asked for the annual approval of the Beginning Teacher Support Program policy sent in advance to the board. Peter Blumenfeld made a motion to approve the policy. Sandy Knox seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Becky also asked for permission to modify the school calendar to move workdays within the current structure as dictated by any changes in our instructional model. Sandy Knox made a motion to approve this request. Jeanne Bryne seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Becky asked that the Board go to Closed Session to discuss a personnel issue. The board entered into Closed Session at 7:03 pm, upon a motion being made by Peter Blumenfeld seconded by Barbara Anne Temple and confirmed via roll call vote of all board members present pursuant to North Carolina General § 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The board ended Closed Session and entered into Open Session at 7:31 pm upon a motion being made by Peter Blumenfeld, seconded by Jeanne Bryne and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board members present.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Abigail Jennings called for any further comment or discussion and hearing none requested a motion to adjourn. Peter Blumenfeld made the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm, without objection.

Respectfully submitted,



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Abigail Jennings, Chairperson