

September 2021 PSCS Board Meeting
Monday, September 20, 2021, at 6:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present

Barbara Ann Temple, Abigail Jennings, Erin Steenwyk, Erik Giles, Peter Blumenfeld, Sandy Knox, James Freeman

Board Members Absent

Jeanne Bryne, De'onn Griffin

Administration Present

Becky Friend, Erin McDonald

CALL TO ORDER

Abigail Jennings established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Approval of August minutes with a couple minor corrections were made including spelling of names; Erik Giles made motion to approve, James Freeman seconded; Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail Jennings called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The board began financial review led by Erik Giles and included review of the balance sheet through August with total liabilities and equity exceeding \$11 million. The profit and loss statement showed the school in the red as of the end of August due to state funds not being transferred. Also, expenses are typically higher in the first trimester of the year and do not include local revenues which begin in October. Barbara Ann Temple made a motion to approve the August financials and it was seconded by Sandy Knox. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments and there were none. Abigail Jennings called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Governance Chair James Freeman asked Erin McDonald to review the open enrollment and lottery dates for this year, originally approved for 2/28/22 but suggested to move to 3/23/22. She explained that these are scheduled to occur after other area charter schools have completed their process to potentially pick up students who were not accepted to other schools. Sandy Knox made a motion to approve the revised lottery date and it was seconded by Barbara Ann Temple; motion approved to move the date from 2/28/22 to 3/23/22.

James also introduced a new policy to the board to address personal protective gear as a response to the mandates of SB 654. The link to the policy draft was sent prior to the meeting for review by board members. James shared that the policy addresses the use of masks for infectious airborne disease mitigation and that the policy will expire June 30, 2021, if approved. Barbara Ann Temple made a motion to approve the policy and Sandy Knox seconded the motion. The policy was approved. Per the policy, Sandy Knox made the motion to continue wearing masks at PSCS and it was seconded by Peter Blumenfeld. The motion passed.

The board chair introduced the strategic calendar which notes important dates that coincide with board goals for the year. No action was needed as these goals were set at the annual board retreat in July.

FACILITIES TASK FORCE

Peter Blumenfeld reported that there has been no further progress with the high school construction project and there are currently discussions going on about some cost-prohibitive items that must be resolved before construction begins. He anticipates the timeline to be a couple weeks. New signage has been installed on campus at the Hive, the Davis House, and at the Asbury complex. Additional signs are forthcoming.

Abigail Jennings shared that the groundbreaking for the high school construction project will be October 1st at 10:30am. The event is for students and will feature grade-level representatives breaking ground for the new building. Some local dignitaries have been invited as have board trustees. Peter asked about including the contractor, architect, and engineers and Abigail asked him to reach out and invite them.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Advancement and Operations

The directors' reports began with a report by Erin McDonald. She talked about the practice of the first six weeks during which the school focuses on community building. She also shared that WINGS has hosted a group of parents to begin building a parent volunteer troop and that one of their first efforts was an oatmeal bar for teachers on 9/17/21. To date, we haven't done any volunteer training, but efforts are beginning to develop room parent support for grade levels. Pioneer Plus camps have begun as has before and after school care and staff photos for the website are almost done. Science Olympiad will also be hosted by the school this year and Friday, 9/24 will be the first field trip of the year to Reedy Creek.

The Faery Tale Ball is anticipated to look differently than years past due to Covid protocols so a virtual event with live stream or a 'drive thru' option are being discussed. A virtual fundraiser in November is also being discussed. ADM is currently at 443 with another 5 pending in the next few days. 18 students are currently in the blend program, a hybrid program focused on grades 3-8 as an option for students with medical issues that prohibit attendance on campus and for K-2 as a daily instructional experience.

Facilities

Randolph Lewis shared facility notes that included the following:

Continued prep for start of school

- Classroom prep

- Deep cleaning buildings

- Strip and wax floors

- New arts office space in Asbury for Music and Dance teachers

- Big effort during staff development to remove unwanted items from classrooms, buildings, and grounds and sort for storage, donation, or to find new homes on campus. Big thanks to Associate Teachers for their help with this project

New outdoor learning space enhancements

- Davis Pavilion

- Outdoor space for Davis house classes

- Outdoor dance classroom

- Installed new shade pergola for Red Barn classes

- Purchased and painted new picnic tables for Asbury

- Completed concrete block seating for Castle Amphitheatre

- Completed grading for new picnic table area next to Castle Amphitheatre. New tables coming soon

Erate/WiFi

- Filed application for extension of service delivery for FY2020 Category 2 cabling and WiFi hardware for high school. Thanks to Roxie Miller, DPI Erate specialist

- Worked with our service provider MCNC to dramatically increase the number of IP addresses available to devices on campus. Thanks to our Client Services Engineer, John Warf

Other

- H&S Roofing completed metal work on the new Asbury roof. Now only waiting on gutters and downspouts

Operations

Becky Friend discussed several board priorities from the July board meeting, including an emphasis on marketing as evidenced by a contract with Bellalove. Recent efforts are underwriting messages on WFAE, monthly quarterly ads in the Kids' Directory, and a focus on messaging around a holistic experience. A corporate sponsor target list has been assembled and letters of introduction will go out by October 15th to prime recipients for a request for donation in November. The board's renewed emphasis on the mission of the school was shared with new staff and returning staff on two different occasions during staff workdays prior to the start of school. WINGS will also host an information session on Basic School philosophy this coming Thursday, 9/23 during administrative hours. Finally, a review of 20-21 academic

testing data was shared. Highlights included a 50% proficiency overall for the school, reading scores in the 50-70th percentiles, and math scores between 29 and 45%. 8th grade science scores were 86% proficient and SWD scored at 22.2%, an area of particular concern in light of the TSI status of the school. Statewide the average learning loss in this past year was some 13 percentage points and Pioneer Springs saw a loss of 10 percentage points from the 18-19 baseline.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Abigail Jennings called for any further comments or discussions. Hearing there were none, Abigail requested a motion to adjourn. Barbara Ann Temple made the motion and Peter Blumenfeld seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm without objection.

Respectfully submitted:

Erin Steenwyk

Erin Steenwyk, Board Secretary