

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Members present: Olubunmi Eigli, Manu Bhagavan, Richard T. Bogle,
Maura Fitzgerald

Others present: Brian Ferguson, Jeffrey Aler, Randi Berry,
Dechelle Damien, Karrine Montaque, Mihwa Park, Jayme Pabon

The meeting began with greetings from everyone. Mr. Brian Ferguson then informs everyone that the meeting will be recorded and transcribed.

Admissions and Enrollment Report:

Mr. Brian Ferguson gave an update on the status of the current enrollment at both schools, OWNCS 1 and OWNCS 2. OWNCS is in good shape for the upcoming year but OWNCS 2 still needs more students. Mr. Brian Ferguson informs all that advertisements will begin in July and August, so he hopes to see the number of students increase.

CEO Report: Brian Ferguson

- Mr. Brian Ferguson was proud to report that both schools continue to make good progress in wrapping up the school year. Kindergarten moving up ceremony occurred last week and the 5th grade moving up ceremony occurred this past Monday.
- Mr. Brian Ferguson discussed the reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year. In the document that he has sent out to all the participants, the plan consists of 3 reopening options that he believes will work for OWNCS and our students. Plan A is a regular school day for all – All students will report to school, but there will be safety precautions and some modifications to ensure safety for the students. Plan B will be a blended learning model, where the students will be divided into cohorts and the school will decide which cohort will report to school and which cohort will learn remotely – The cohorts will alternate. Nothing has been decided, but the school leaders have been playing around with various ideas on what would be the best option for the children, whether it will be half days for all or virtual learning in the afternoon while some students report to school in the morning. Mr. Brian Ferguson and the school leaders and other members of the team are scheduled to have a meeting again to revisit these ideas and finalize.
- Once the reopening plan is closer to being finalized, Mr. Brian Ferguson will share with the PTO and the families and ask for feedback.
- Mr. Brian Ferguson requested SUNY, Charter Schools Institute for 185 school days rather than 190 days so that school can reopen post Labor Day. Several holidays will be removed from the school calendar so that there will be 185 school days.
- Teachers will report back to school one week before the school start date so they will begin the last week of August.
- All board members approved of the request for the school to operate for 185 instructional days.

Facilities Committee Report: Richard Bogle

Mr. Bogle gave an update on the lease negotiations for both the elementary and middle school buildings. For the elementary school, we are close to making a deal with EDC. The middle school is still in discussion.

Finance & Audit Committee Report: Karrine Montaque

Ms. Karrine Montaque discussed the budget that OWNCS prepared.

- Most of the expense line items stayed the same as the prior year with the exception of the instructional staff.
- The funds that OWNCS received via paycheck protection program will be used to mitigate the upcoming loss of students due to the ongoing pandemic.
- The business office is currently reviewing the loan forgiveness application.
- The school has switched PEO from Extensis Group to Little Bird HR and was able to save in health insurance and worker's compensation costs.
- OWNCS 2 will be adding a fourth kindergarten class and the fourth grade will be instituted in the upcoming year. Therefore, OWNCS is projecting ten additional staff members.
- Overall, student population is the biggest threat so we must endeavor to increase the number of students.
- All the members of the board approved the budgets for both OWN 1 and OWN 2.

Parent Teacher Organization Report: Randi Berry and Dechelle Damien.

- PTO has been ordering school supplies and have been holding a book fair online.
- PTO moved their stuff out of their office at OWN 1, since parents will not be allowed in the school during the new year.
- They voted to have a virtual welcome gathering for the new Kindergarten families and the 6th grade families.
- PTO is hoping for a survey to be sent out to the families to see what worked and what didn't work during the distance learning program in Spring 2020.

OWN 1 Faculty Report: Jayme Pabon

Ms. Pabon reported that the middle school graduation took place and it was successful. She thanked Mr. Brian Ferguson and Dr. Jeannette Betancourt for their lovely speeches to the students.

Meeting Adjourned