

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Board Members present: Maura Fitzgerald, Melissa Chin, Jeanette Betancourt, Liz Fernandez

Others present: Brian Ferguson, Mihwa Park, Fabio Cuellar, Kathy, Douglas Ricketts, Richard Lee, Maria Dhesi, Anita Angrum, Tanicqua Pryor, Tiffany McAfee

The meeting began with greetings from everyone. Mr. Brian Ferguson then informed everyone that the meeting would be recorded.

CEO Report: Brian Ferguson

- Highlights the smooth start to the school year. Praises the tech department and operations crew for the summer preparations to ensure a smooth start of the school year.
- Mentions ongoing staffing challenges, particularly in finding teaching staff and middle school coaching staff but satisfied with the current state of readiness and preparation for the school year.
- Discusses the submission of the annual reports to SUNY and CSI.
- Mentions the updates on the safety plan, which now includes the after school dismissal protocols and trauma policy. All safety plans have been submitted to the police department and available for the public.
- Code of Civility Handbook has been updated and revised. A new communication guide has been created for families. The goal was to clarify the parents expectations from the school and to reduce confrontational situations between school and families.
- Introduces all the principals of OWN 1, 2, 3, new COO, and CAO to the board of trustees.
- Discusses the new school foods program at OWN 1 ES and explains the selection process.
- Provides an update on admissions- OWN 2 and 3 are in good standing but there are still gaps to fill.
- Outlines the advertising budget for the year and the goal of maintaining enrollment levels.

Network Goals & Principal Presentations: Richard Lee, Maria Dhesi, Anita Angrum, Tiffany McAfee, Tanicqua Pryor

CAO Presentation: Richard Lee

- CAO discusses the inclusion in DEI training of business office staff, secretaries, and other personnel to ensure diverse DEI practices.
- Emphasis on using data to inform practices with principals, APs, coaches and teachers.
- Preparation for renewal visit in Fall 2025, necessitating unified academic excellence.

Principals' Presentations: Maria Dhesi, Anita Angrum, Tiffany McAfee, Tanicqua Pryor

OWN 1 ES

- OWN 1 ES highlights the school's second year as an IB world school, focusing on deep diving into IB policies, including the integrity policy and language policy.

- Emphasis on vertical alignment in the PYP program with a goal to deepen the learning showcase from K-5th grade.
- Parent engagement goals include demystifying the PYP and offering academic workshops for the parents.

OWN 1 MS

- Outlines the three main goals: building academic excellence, safeguarding students, and increasing parent outreach.
- Focus on reducing students performing two to three grades below on iReady assessments through improved classroom practices and professional development.
- Implementation of new curricula in various subject areas and academic intervention services in math and reading.
- Emphasis on student safety, using Responsive Classroom programs and addressing bullying through education and prevention systems.
- Increased parent outreach through events like chat and chew sessions and greet and meet mornings.

OWN 2

- Introduces the rally cry “Forward Motion” and goals to increase state scores in grades 3-5 in math and ELA by 10%
- Coffee and Conversation events for family engagement with a strong focus on increasing communication and partnerships.
- Monthly community circles to celebrate student achievements and restorative practices to support positive behavior and learning
- Emphasis on being an anti-racist school, ensuring diverse classroom libraries and embedding IB principles in academic instruction.

OWN 3

- Discusses the focus on academic excellence, elevating English language growth and cultivating a positive staff culture.
- Goals include lowering the percentage of students scoring within the 20% range on iReady assessments and maintaining 100% growth.
- Implementation of restorative practices and leveraging the school counselor to support students with behavior and coping strategies.
- Rolling out a “Who to Call” document to guide teachers on handling classroom incidents and providing support systems.

Finance Report: Fabio Cuellar

- The education corporation recognized revenues of \$32.8 million and expenditures of \$32.2 million resulting in a net income of \$13,000
- Detailed financial breakdowns are provided for each school.

- Federal Revenues, local revenues and other revenues are broken down with specific figures for grants and local contributions.
- Expenditure categories include salaries, benefits, contract services, school operations, facilities operations, and depreciation.

COO Report: Douglas Ricketts

- Provides an update on various building and maintenance projects across the schools.
- Emphasizes the importance of maintaining schools in top condition for students.

OWNCS 2 PTO Report

- Outlines upcoming fundraising events and activities for the school year.
- The first big fundraiser, Gobble Grams is scheduled for November followed by Smile Day and Friendship Day in October.
- Holiday pop-ups and Pi Day are planned with hopes for increased participation and success.
- Mother's and Father's Day events are also on the agenda, aiming to make the school year enjoyable for all the students.

Meeting Adjourned

Resolution on next page.