

## REACS minutes for the Board of Directors Meeting

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom video conference service

November 23, 2020

Attendees: R. Wilson, L. Hamer, S. Fairclough-Leslie, T. Muniz, K. Sandiford, C. Williams, L. Stephens, D. A. Seabourne, C. Rice, Dr. J. Padilla, K. Sandiford

After a short welcome from L. Hamer, the meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Verification of public notice was sent and confirmed.

The agenda was reviewed; R. Wilson made a motion to accept the agenda; C. Williams seconded; motion was passed.

The minutes were reviewed from 10/26/20. R. Wilson made a motion to accept the minutes with any necessary corrections; L. Stephens seconded; motion was passed.

### **Business Operations Report – T. Muniz**

UPK Students	36
K-7	396
SPED Students	49
ELL Students	7
Economic Disadvantaged Students	67%

- As of 11/23/20 there are 396 students on the roster for the 2020-2021 school year (new 7<sup>th</sup> grader).
- 416 students on current waitlist.
- Continuing to meet with parents to pick up technology and books for REACS scholars.
- Continuing to support families in need of Internet hotspots.
- Working to secure contracts for enrichment programs (January 2021 start dates).
- Financial audit is complete for 2020-2021 school year.
- Working with CEO for PPP and other required documents.
- Financial Summary, cash disbursement and calendar of reporting requirements reports were given to the board, in good financial position.

### **CEO Report – Dr. Rice**

#### **Maintenance/Facility and new Construction:**

- We are taking advantage of this period of remote learning to make needed repairs and improve mechanical systems to enhance the accessibility and comfort of both facilities. **Over the coming weeks we will:**
  - 1) Install new alarm equip exit doors on the lower level (to the back yard).
  - 2) Install canopy and enclosure to connect main building and Montessori annex, to protect scholars and staff from inclement weather conditions.
  - 3) Install touchless vanities in all scholar accessible rest rooms. (completed)
  - 4) Fix all water leaks and stained tiles.
  - 5) Repair boiler for lower level, replace HVAC filters with HEPA anti-viral filters.

6) Replace sewer pump.

- I am working with Ms. Muniz and the accountants to submit to Northfield Bank the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness application.
- Northfield Bank is currently reconsidering their withdrawal of the loan commitment as per my request. I, Deacon Oliver and Attorney Bailey met with the not for lending team of M & T Bank in what we all believe was a very promising prospect for financing our project. We have also received proposals from Griffin Capital and Charter School Capital. Because we are confident that one of these financial institutions will approve our loan, we are proceeding with the project using the funds on hand to avoid any further delay.
- All plans have been filed and most have been approved.
- DOB Commissioner has preliminarily approved our safety plan and the contractor has already constructed the exit path on the north side (beside house)

**Principal Report – S. Fairclough-Leslie/Dr. J. Padilla**

Spoke on school closing 11/16 for remote instruction; spoke on remote schedule. On Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, parent workshops began - zoom etiquette, math assistance for parents. Nov. 18 was the ELA parent workshop. Spoke on co-teacher remote models and parent workshops are forthcoming. Dr. Padilla spoke on parent teacher conferences (Nov 9<sup>th</sup>) and report cards; 1-on-1 phone calls or zoom conferences were scheduled with parents for review. ANET, ELA and Math online assessments are almost complete; results will be available this week and next steps will be planned for the first week in December. Social-emotional methods were discussed; instructional online support for staff are ongoing with feedback as well as math coaching. S. Fairclough-Leslie spoke on after-school program progress started Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> for grades 2-7; working to increase participation; K-1 afterschool start date TBD. Virtual enrichment program for entire school update was given (done on half-days or on Wednesdays). Science Teacher resigned in October; having a difficult time filling position – search suspended, and program was re-organized to include an additional language with the classroom teacher continuing to teach science with no additional cluster. Search for science teacher will begin again in the spring. Must have certified science teacher for 8<sup>th</sup> grade; after-school program is fully staffed. School closing was reported to DOE and requested an accommodation not to open UPK and request was granted. No reported positive case in the building before school close; after school close 1<sup>st</sup> grader was reported with a positive case with proper notifications give to entire school; no additional follow-ups needed. In lieu of Holiday gathering for the staff, board was given a consideration for vote for staff appreciation.

**Academic Report – C. Williams**

Committee met 11/20 online; admin board report was reviewed; looking forward to reviewing assessment data for ELA and Math and will be working with admin. To improve school for staff and students. Happy with school leadership on safety precautions for school.

**Personnel Report – K. Sandiford – NO REPORT**

**PTO Report – D. A. Seabourne**

Meeting held 11/18/20 – 20 participants with staff. Spoke on new PTO board members; New board will take over for December's meeting. S. Brown President, A. Holes 1<sup>st</sup> vice president J. Stingley, Secretary, D. A. Seabourne Treasurer. \$3,000.00 PTO funds will be spent on school needs (internet hotspots, COVID-19 family assistance, gift cards to REACS staff, gift cards to scholars). No Holiday dinner and giveaway due to COVID-19. Popcorn fundraiser is going well and will continue through 12/4. Gave thanks to the board for the ability to serve REACS. 4 parents received stop and shop gift cards. Spoke on parent questions and concerns. Gave update in PTO bank balance.

**Finance Report – M. Anglin – NO REPORT**

**Fundraising – NO REPORT**

L. Hamer thanked all for attending, thanked school leadership, board, and staff and parents for attending meeting and hard work during this pandemic and best wishes for Thanksgiving; welcomed new board. Next board meeting 12/28/20; meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. and board discussion was held after.