



**Side by Side Board Meeting
February 27, 2018**

APPROVED MINUTES

I. Roll Call

A. Members of the board in Attendance: Anne Dichele, Matt Nittoly, Adam Norris, , Jimi Napoli, Kimberly Grimm, Nell Conroy, Peter Hadley, Josh Dichele, Steve Ferguson, Sally Davids

B. Jennifer Healy, Steve Stone, Nicole Shargoury, Larry Cafero,

II. Public Session

None

III. Call to Order

A. Anne at 5:35

IV. Review of Minutes

A. Motion from Jimi , second by Steve

B. reformatting additional discussion into Directors update plus notes on Public Session

C. Move to accept Adam, approved

V. New Business

Auditors Review and Report - The audit, performed by DHL&S, is in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in the US and Government Auditing Standards. Side by Side's accounting policies and practices are in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the US. No significant changes to accounting policies and practices, and no preferable practices were identified. The auditors reviewed required communications for possible illegal acts (none noted), material weaknesses in internal control (none noted), material errors or irregularities including frauds (none noted) and disagreements with management (none noted).

Outside of additional income and expense accounts for new construction, not a lot of comments on balance sheet, cash is still strong, and fixed assets are pretty consistent with last year as well as liabilities. Income Statements also showed consistency with last year. Overall the auditors are very comfortable in the efficiency of balancing the budget and running our business.

The topic of Language offerings is on the agenda. Board had a brief conversation regarding overall topic and felt topic warranted more than 10 minute conversation as slated for meeting. Board decision to

table and split topic into next two board session. March meeting would be to review of minutes from previous years regarding language, Matt to collect his information that he previously presented and what other charter schools are offering and Anne to research the viability of a foreign language at the elementary and middle school level.

REPORTS

Directors Update

I. 2016-17 Accountability Index results:

- In mid-February CSDE released scores from their Next Generation Accountability System for all CT schools and districts. Each public school across the state receives a score called an "Accountability Index," using a formula that considers (up to) 12 indicators that go beyond just looking at standardized test scores.
- Side by Side's overall Accountability Index for 2016-17 is 77.2 (Up from 75.9 in 2015-16)
- Our Accountability Index of 77.2 indicates that we earned 77.2% of the total possible points in each of the following "indicator" areas: (1) Academic achievement on standardized tests; (2) Academic growth; (3) Participation rate on standardized assessments; (4) Chronic absenteeism; and (5) Physical fitness
- Overall, we are very pleased with these results. Not only did we improve upon our prior year score, but also based on this index we continue to outperform nearly every other comparable CT charter school and Norwalk public school.

II. SBS in the Niche.com Ranking of the Top 100 Schools with the Best Teachers in CT

Side by Side was rated among the 100 schools with the Best Teachers in CT for 2018. Niche.com, which specializes in all different types of rankings, including schools, has created a ranking of the top 100 schools with the best teachers in the CT. These rankings take into account student and parent ratings of teachers, teacher salaries, teacher absenteeism, teacher tenure, student-teacher ratio, and an "Academics Grade" for the school. (Please visit niche.com for more information.)

III. March BoD Meeting/Community Forum to discuss School Performance:

Tentative plan: 3/27 @ 5-6pm; Community forum open to Board, parents and students to discuss performance past, present and future.

IV. Unpaid Lunch Balances:

NPS is experiencing an issue with increasing unpaid lunch balances for all schools. Side by Side has been notified that moving forward schools will be billed and held responsible for unpaid balances. Matt is exploring this further and will provide additional information at future meeting

Building Report

Construction is on schedule. All roughs and mechanicals are in and sheet rock starting. Schedule move out date from portables to new building slated for 6/22. Investigating a racking storage system for basement which is to be included in the capital budget. Traffic patterns once building is close to completion will be back on the agenda with both board and town.

Finance Committee

Overall assessment from committee is good

Balance Sheet

State grant money received in January so cash increase and decrease in receivables.

P&L

Line by line notes on schedule which are repetitive month to month, no new notes.

Bottom line projecting a net loss ytd \$47K. Most of this from allocation of one less student and change in charter allocation from the state.

Health benefits running low which helps

Budget for school year 2018/19 will be presented in the spring

PTCO Update

The PTCO met in February to discuss spring fundraising and community building events. We are scheduling a Side by Side family night at Pump it Up on Thursday, March 22, from 5-7:30 where SBS will receive 50% of the proceeds of ticket sales. We are also working on scheduling a Side by Side family night at SkyZone, where SBS will earn between 10-25% of ticket sales depending on the amount of jumpers affiliated with SBS. We are also working on a possible fundraiser with Square 1 Art, which is a company that uses student's original art to create gift items. The Square 1 fundraiser would be a replacement for the Art Show this year, since we cannot use the church basement for that event.

Additionally, we are reaching out to the New Canaan Nature Center to see if we can host a Spring Fling there on May 5th or 6th. This event would be a fundraiser for the field trip fund to replace the funds normally collected by the Harvest Fair. We should have an answer as to availability of the Nature Center in the next few weeks.

The PTCO will meet again in mid-March to further plan these events.

Fundraising Report

Discussion and decision that gala cost should be \$125. Josh confirming with venue per plate cost.

Donations need to start coming in. All board members reminded that this is a board fundraiser and all members cooperation is anticipated.

Motion to adjourn by Steve, second by Adam

VIII. Set agenda for meeting 3/27 at 5:00pm

Forum prior

Roll Call

Public Session

Call to Order

Review of Minutes

New Business

Language offerings

Reports

Directors Update

PTCO Update

Finance Committee

Building Committee

Fundraising Committee

Executive Session

Set Agenda for following meeting Tuesday 4/24.