



**SIDE BY SIDE**  
**CHARTER SCHOOL**

**Side by Side Board Meeting**  
**February 28, 2016**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**I. Roll Call**

**A.** Members of the board in Attendance: Anne Dichele, Matt Nittoly, Adam Norris, Josh Dichele, Jimi Napoli, Bill Murphy, Kimberly Grimm, Steve Ferguson, Nicole Shargoury, Melanie McGowan, Chris Beric, Joy DeJaeger, Sally Davids

**B.** Members Absent - Larry Cafero

**II. Public Session**

No public session

**III. Call to Order**

**A.** Anne at 5:30

**IV. Review of Minutes**

**A.** Motion from Jimi , second by Steve

**B.** No changes

**C.** Move to accept by Kim, second Chris, minutes 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.

North East Charter School Network - Discussion regarding our membership with the Network and the what we do and do not receive from them. Conversation on letters sent to Network and the press regarding SBS BOD disapproval of Networks endorsement of Betsy Devos appointment to Secretary of Education. Letter written by Anne to Network cancelling our membership was shared and discussed. Letter questioned on tone; being to political vs a balance with our additional misgivings of being part of the Network. In the end decision to let letter stand as is.

Motion by Jimi to approve the letter, second by Melanie. Eleven approved, one abstention.

Conversation ensued on how to create more press and public relations and how to educate the public on the difference of corporate charters vs independent community schools such as Side by Side and illustrate how our type of school helps the community vs taking resources from the municipalities public schools.

## **VI Reports**

### **Directors Update**

#### **I. Side by Side new lease:**

Side by Side and St. Joseph's Church have agreed on new leases for (a) the school building; (b) Parcel "B" (the new Annex building) and (c) a second amendment to Parcel "A" the current Annex building. The leases were officially executed, notarized and signed-off on Wednesday, 2/15/17. The building lease and Parcel B lease will run through year 2044.

#### **II. Curriculum & Instruction Update:**

- 2/16 PD day- Mandated reported training and certification for all SBS employees

#### **III. Staffing update:**

- Effective 3/8/17 the SBS Art teacher will be taking a maternity leave. The leave request will extend for the remainder of the 2017 school year. A search for a long term sub is in process.

#### **IV. State Accountability index:**

- Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System is a broad set of 12 indicators that help tell the story of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers and life.
- It is a new system moves beyond test scores and graduation rates and instead provides a more holistic, multifactor perspective of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time.
- There are two main differences with the new accountability system and previous.
- ✓ In addition to measuring academic achievement, the new system also focuses on student growth over time. Measuring growth provides a more accurate picture than just looking at a snapshot in time of student performance.
- ✓ The second big change is that the new accountability system includes additional key indicators, such as chronic absenteeism, physical fitness and arts access. Research tells us that students who attend school on a daily basis and maintain a healthy lifestyle are

more likely to graduate and succeed in college. Access to an engaging arts curriculum creates a more well-rounded educational experience.

**A presentation on Side by Side's 2015-16 School Performance Index from the new accountability system will take place at the March 28 Board Meeting**

**V. Misc:**

- NAPDS conference in Washington DC (Matt, Anne attending 3/8-3/11)
- Governor's Proposed Budget for FY18 includes an additional \$482 per pupil for charters

**Fundraising Report**

Save the date and invitations for Gala have gone out. Option to prepay for \$100 or pay at the door \$125 per is part of the incentive this year to create an early RSVP list. Donations coming in but more needed and request to Board on purchase of full table sponsorships.

**PTCO Report**

The Second, Fourth and Fifth grades had Math Night on January 23rd. Attendance by 11 families in both Second and Fourth and 16 families in Fifth grades. The conversation centered around conceptual development, multiplication, and addition of fraction.

The Second grade had a publishing party on Greek Myths. 13 families participated.

PK 103 had a pot luck on February 15th with theme of family heritage. Each student did a presentation. 14 families participated.

Third Grade had an open discussion night on February 7th, 6 families participated.

**Finance Committee Report**

Balance Sheet

1030 Operating account - balance increase based on receipt of third quarter funding from the state.

Offsets account 1203 AR Unbilled Receivables

2300-04 Annex Construction Project - new account for funding from other sources.

P & L

Half way through the year. All is on schedule.

4170B Extended day, increase in income, Linda will look into this and advise.

**Building Committee Report**

Leases negotiations and executions completed. New leases take effect 3/16/2017

Currently in pre-bid phase,. Architect will receive pre-bids. The review with the City of Norwalk on final plans should happen within the month and once signed off by the City then public bidding will commence. Bidding will be two phases; first phase construction, second phase tech and furniture plan. Intention of bidding process to commence in April.

Construction loan almost closed with Fairfield County Bank. More information at next BOD meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Kim, Second by Steve.

No Executive Session

**VIII. Set agenda for Tuesday 3/28 meeting at 5:15pm**

Roll Call

Public Session

Call to Order

Review of Minutes

New Business - Dismissal bus schedule, State Accountable index

Reports

- Directors Update
- PTCO Update
- Finance Committee
- Building Committee
- Fundraising Committee

Executive Session