



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

**Side by Side Board Meeting**  
**November 24, 2015**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**I. Roll Call**

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

**B.** Members Absent: Skelton Key, Bill Murphy, Cathy Cappellieri,

**II. Public Session**

None

**III. Call to Order**

**A.** Anne at 5:30

**IV. Review of Minutes**

**A.** Motion from Mary, second from Mel

**B.** Typo correction and language adjustment in new business

**C.** Move to accept, approved by Adam, second by Steve

**V. New Business**

Board introduced to Larry Cafero for election to Community Seat on the Board. Mr. Cafero has history with SBS as board member and chairperson position during the early years of the charters existence assisting in legal affairs and the initial lease on the current school property. Mr. Cafero had a 22 year career in the state legislature which included a long history as a ranking member of the Education Committee and participated in writing the legislation concerning charter schools. He is now practicing law and with his passion for education, is seeking membership to the board. Both Anne and Steve commented on the asset of Mr. Carefo's membership to the board. Unanimously Mr. Carefo's nomination was accepted and he will join the board at the next meeting.

Conversation continued on the racial and socioeconomic make up of the SBS current enrollment and if changing lottery procedures would modify the current makeup. Jimi presented data illustrating residency of current attendance. Data showed that 44% of the enrollment is from families in the neighborhood, 35% from the first tier of neighborhoods away from school, 10% from the far reaching neighborhoods of Norwalk and 11% from outside of Norwalk. The purpose of the exercise was to illustrate how the current enrollment does not reflect equally the geographic of the entire city.

Kim presented information she collected on how other charters facilitated their lotteries. The information was widely different; some charters are not regional and only accept applications from their town, others were simple blind lotteries open to only those requesting economical status (free and reduced lunch). Some schools lotteries are conducted through their local BOE or use an outside service to conduct their lottery.

The purpose of the conversation was to see if the lottery criteria was modified based on school districts, then would the school in time see a more diverse population. This practice is used by three magnet schools in Norwalk resulting in a dynamic and diverse student and family body at neighboring school Columbus Magnet.

It was suggested that instead the focus should be not on the lottery but upgrading the facilities so to be more attractive to the surrounding population therefore creating more interest and applications. The board has been in the process of working on a permanent replacement for the Upper School building.

There was a move to establish a land base committee.

## **VI. Reports**

Director Update:

### **I. Health insurance (update):**

- Side by Side Health Insurance plan will renew annually on 12/1/15
- All eligible employees have been provided new plan information and met the enrollment deadline to renew on 12/1.
- F/T employees continued to be offered option of an HSA or HRA plan.
- For the HSA 50% of deductible is provided by Side by Side on a quarterly basis; For the HRA there is 50% deductible reimbursement– employee responsible for first half, employer for second half)
- Continued composite rate offerings
- Employee contribution rate towards premium remains at 16%

**II. NECSN Panel Discussion:** Matt Nittoly was one of 5 panelists on a CT Charter School panel discussion hosted by NECSN and held in New Haven on 11/5. This was an opportunity to discuss publically the success of Side by Side and public charters across the state. The event was well attended by educators, parents, students from all over CT.

### **III. Cocktails for a Cause:**

- Took place on 11/6/15
- 81 people attended; \$5800 net (anticipating an additional \$500 donation)
- Proceeds go to field trips expenses

**IV. Curriculum and Instruction update: (Mary Newbery)**

- Parent forum was held on 11/16. Group meeting with all parents to discuss SBS performance on first round of SBAC; and to discuss the new MAP assessments. Breakout groups by grade level to discuss the need for a “growth mindset” as part of the SBS community and culture.

**V. Administrative Recommendations:**

- **Personnel-**
  - ✓ Request of additional Teaching Assistant/Special Ed Para; 105 days after 1/1/16
  - ✓ Request to utilize service of CT Behavioral Health LLC for school consultation (BCBA on as-needed basis to consult in creation of FBA or behavioral plan for children in crisis)

**Finance Committee**

Adam presented current financial status. Still fairly early in school year. So far all well, no critical issues. Stand out items.

BS 1200 AR zero balance, Norwalk service paid

1041 CD rolled forward .5% for 6 months

1300-03 Prepaid other

2206 IT consultant - no billing received from contractor

PL 4050 extra student, favorable balance

4190C season fundraiser - unfavorable - early in the year

5200A Health insurance = favorable variance which should continue throughout the year

HSA reimbursement account - favorable \$3400 which will build hoping not to max out at \$21K as budgeted

6400B no heat yet

6400E unfavorable \$5000 extra work done over the summer

7000-1C if income low then expenses low

Bottom line favorable YTD \$18000

**PTCO update**

Kim has classroom parent list schedule meeting right after first of year to move forward on revamp.

**Fundraising Update**

See directors update

**VIII. Set agenda for 12/15 meeting at 5:15pm**

Roll Call

Public Session

Call to Order

Review of Minutes

New Business  
Reports  
Directors Update  
PTCO Update  
Finance Committee  
Facilities Committee  
Fundraising Committee  
Executive Session  
Set Agenda for Following Meeting.

Move to adjourn  
Accepted by Chris, second by Melanie