



**Side by Side Board Meeting  
November 28, 2017**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**I. Roll Call**

**A.** Members of the board in Attendance: Anne Dichele, Matt Nittoly, Adam Norris, Nicole Shargoury, Jimi Napoli, Sally Davids, Kimberly Grimm, Jennifer Healy, Nell Conroy, Kristie Guevremont, Steve Stone

**B.** Josh Dichele, Steve Ferguson, Larry Cafero

**II. Public Session**

None

**III. Call to Order**

**A.** Anne at 5:30

**IV. Review of Minutes**

**A.** Motion from Adam , second by Christie

**B.** No changes

**C.** Move to accept Adam

**V. New Business**

Motion from Jimi to change new bylaws as written, second by Nell.

Adam requested some clarification on two areas.

Motion to approve, all in favor.

The process of grant writing was discussed and question of viability. Other fundraising topics discussed as the new market tax credits, how it allow others to donate and return on investment in 7 years. Decision made that a vision survey would be in order.

## VI. Reports

### Directors Update

#### I. Grant updates:

- **School Construction:**

As per recently approved CT State Bill No. 1502: The CT State Biennium Budget for year ending June 30, 2019—Section 245 of this Bill has formally amended the School Construction Grant award to Side by Side Charter School from \$2.5 million to \$4.2 million. During a recent phone conference with the Department of Administrative Services, they have confirmed this update and the state portal for releasing these funds has been updated to reflect \$4.2million in available funds.

- **Charter School Per-Pupil Allocation:**

As per recently approved CT State Bill No. 1502—Section 583(D) “for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 the state shall pay a state charter school \$11,000 per pupil;” “for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 the state shall pay a state charter school \$11,250 per pupil.”

This represents the anticipated flat funding at \$11K per student for the current school year, with a scheduled increase to \$11,250 for FY19. This would equate to a scheduled increase of \$59K in operating revenue at capacity enrollment (236).

- **FRC (Family Resource Center):**

As per recently approved CT State Bill No. 1502—Sec. 33 it was decided that, “any municipality that has more than one Family resource Center located in its public schools under the Family Resource Center program shall close one of its centers.” There are 3 Family Resource Centers in Norwalk (SBS, Naramake and Fox Run). The most recent update that we have received indicated that Norwalk Public Schools operates 2 FRCs and that Side by Side operates 1. Therefore, we are considered a municipality with only 1 center and should not be closed. Once the determination has been made for closing centers across the state, the \$100K budgets will be released.

- **Charter School Facility and Debt repayment:**

Approval of a \*\$483K grant award for Side by Side is on the agenda for the 11/29/17 meeting of the CT State Bonding Commission. It is anticipated that this funding will be formally approved and available for access soon.

In total, there were five approved projects in this RFP:

- (1) Debt Repayment (\$345K)\*
- (2) Henry St. Lot re-pave and fencing (\$54K)\*
- (3) Main Bldg Security upgrades (\$40K)
- (4) Portable Annex renovation (\$38K)
- (5) Stairwell storage in main Bldg (\$7K)

\*At the time that the Charter School Facility and Debt Repayment RFP was submitted, Side by Side was in the process of seeking additional funding sources for our \$4mil building project. Since that time, the States School construction Grant award has been amended to \$4.2mil. As such, projects #'s 1 and 2 (approx.. \$400K) will not be needed. The Ct State Charter School Office has been made aware of these circumstances. We have agreed that funding for these projects will not be drawn upon and that we will formally provide notice of our intent to CSDE in the spring.

- **Title IV:**

A new Federal Entitlement (Title IV: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant) is available to all CT public school districts. We are one of many districts with a funding cap request of \$10K. Our focus with this funding will be implementing an interdisciplinary, integrated technology curriculum for our students by providing teachers extensive, content related professional development around using digital platforms such as Google.edu and Schoology. Workshops and implementation will be provided in collaboration with Capital Region Education Council (C.R.E.C.). In addition, we are in the process of seeking other potential funding sources to equip ourselves with the hardware and supplies needed for this transition plan.

## **II. NetStat Learning Series:**

On Friday, November 17, Matt Nittoly and Mary Newbery provided a workshop presentation hosted by the CT State Department of Education's Turnaround Office. The presentation summarized Side by Side's identified best practices for an integrated and collaborative system of data teams, instructional strategies and peer-walkthroughs as a means of improving student performance. 40 participants from CT's "Alliance" districts attended the workshop and provided positive feedback.

## **III. Staffing Update:**

Interviewing is underway for a Grade 3 long-term substitute teacher. It is anticipated that the sub position will last from approximately December 18- April 6.

## **Building Committee**

Since the last meeting financing from the state was adjusted to cover over for soil remediation. As of now the building is completely funded.

Truces for roof have arrived. Thursday truces are up, windows available, brick façade will start in next two weeks. Few additions based on funding to be decided. Committee has checked with the City reference naming the building. Drawings are needed to present. Name will most likely be the Side By Side William O Murphy Upper School Annex.

## **Finance Committee**

Adam reports to date all is running on budget.

Balance sheet activity mostly Annex construction

Largest items

1035 to 2300-04 annex payment approx \$182K  
2203 \$18.5K for payment to auditors.

#### P&L

Still using prior year as comparison.

Next month will have monthly comparison

4050 an accrued amount and still based on the 236 student but will be only 235 so will come in \$11K short by end of year.

4170 A & B down a bit due to timing and mix of students, family size, discount rates, etc.

4300B FRC grant accruing with assumption of no change.

6200A Health insurance - paid less due to less employees and rate.

6200F dental plan is mostly timing

6324A Unfavorable because of Natures Classroom.

6590B Biz Insurance went up because of Annex

6890X negative variance - signage for drop off pick up and staff team building event which will most likely be reclassified to a Professional Development account.

#### **PTCO Update**

First meeting, 12 parents plus Matt and Evelyn

Child care was supplied used by 11 participants

Great meeting with much participation.

Focus on community activities that might be fund raising in nature; Spring Fest, Fun Run, Bowlmor, Skyzone and Pump it Up

Decision was made to establish monthly meetings.

A suggestion to selling concessions and raffles at holiday concert was addressed.

#### **Fundraising Report**

Need new sponsor for golf course

Jimi will reach Josh for details. (Apr 27)

Motion to adjourn by Jimi, second by Nicole

#### **VII. Set agenda for meeting 12/19 at 5:15pm**

Roll Call

Public Session

Call to Order

Review of Minutes

New Business

Reports

Directors Update

PTCO Update

Finance Committee

Building Committee

Fundraising Committee

Executive Session

Set Agenda for Following Meeting .