SBS Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, August 23, 2022
FINAL-APPROVED Minutes

Roll Call:

Present: Larry Cafero, Matthew Nittoly, Nell Conroy, Todd Parkin, Adam Norris, Kim Grimm, Stephanie Palmer, Ewa Derlukiewicz, Sally Davids, Amanda Gormley, Kim Mendola, Britnee Henderson

Absent: Anthony Pavia

Call to Order: Larry called the meeting to order at 5:16pm

Review & Approval of June 22, 2022 minutes: Motion to approve minutes made by Nell, seconded by Ewa.

- **Introduction new Board Members:**
  - Todd Parkin (parent rep)
  - Britnee Henderson (Parent alternate)
  - Amanda Gormley (Teacher rep)

- **BOD Schedule for upcoming school year presented:** 4th Tuesday of each month (8/23, 9/27 IN PERSON, 10/25, 11/22, 1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23… December and June meeting dates TBD)

Director's Update:

- **2022-23 Staffing update:** As of 8/22/22, all positions have been filled (RBT vacancy as per ESSER grant); School begins on 8/31 for all students.

- **Summer update**

  K-8: Full-day Summer school was in session at SBS for 6 weeks for approximately 70 students grades K-8. The daily schedule consisted of academics in the morning and enrichment in the afternoons.

- **SBS Nurse position:**

  Maria Restrepo resigned effective July 2022. Maria has been with SBS since 2003

  Teresa Norris has been hired as the new school nurse at SBS. Teresa brings over 25 years' experience as a Registered Nurse having worked in

various roles in the nursing field, including Pediatrics. Teresa is also a former Side by Side parent who is well-acquainted with not only the school and staff at Side by Side, but also our social justice philosophy

Matt explained how teacher and school staffing shortages are at an all-time high across the country. Simultaneously, while dealing w this, schools must continue to fill academic gaps caused by excessive time out of school while also meeting the social/emotional needs of our students, staff and families. Addressing these needs required creative and unique planning. Here is a summary of some ways SBS is addressing these difficult times:

- **New MUSIC Partnership with Arts For Learning CT (AFLCT):**

We have contracted into partnership with Arts for Learning CT (AFLCT). AFLCT is a leading provider of arts in education programs in the state. In place of the traditional General Music course, all students grades PreK-8 will participate in different music residency experiences throughout the school year. Each residency from AFLCT will last approximately 6-8 weeks, at which time a new music/movement artist will join our school community for that period. Each Music class will be led by the incoming resident and will also be staffed with SBS faculty to help facilitate the class.

Our first resident Teaching Artist is Masem Enyong. Masem is planning to bring the students on a journey through different African nations all over the continent to look at music history, style, and dance moves born from these places. Masem will build on this by bringing in current and modern music and dance trends to teach the students about how music and dance are heavily influenced by African culture. Other planned residents will include music artists specializing in topics such as songwriting; improv; theater; dance and more

- **Rosetta Stone World Language Program for Grades 5-8:**

In addition to Art and Music, students in grades 5-8 will participate in a World Language course using the Rosetta Stone platform. Languages offered will include Spanish, French, Arabic, Japanese, and Chinese. In addition to the use of Rosetta Stone as a middle school World Language course, there will soon be availability for parents to also participate in similar programming through our school Family Resource Center

- **Free Breakfast & Lunch For ALL:**

All students at Side by Side and Norwalk Public Schools can now get a free healthy breakfast and lunch at school during the school year. Side by Side is getting free meals for all students as part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School

Breakfast Program (SBP) through a choice for schools called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

- **Ecology School Overnight Trip for Grades 5-6:**

We are excited to offer a new hands-on science and team building trip to the Ecology School (https://theecologyschool.org) in Saco, Maine being offered to grades 5 and 6 this year. This 3-night trip will take place November 7-10. This trip is fully funded by a grant/donor.

- **Professional Development Plans for the 2022-23 School Year:**
    - In-house PD focus on DIFFERENTIATION, ENGAGEMENT and SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING (focus on both children and adults of the school community)
    - Margie Gillis LiteracyHow- Reading Interventions and Comprehension PD for teachers
    - Verbal De-escalation PD "How to Respond When a Student Challenges." (Matt to be trained and push out to staff)

***Given that it is only August, there was no update provided by the Finance committee. The first review of monthly financial reports will be presented at the September meeting of the Board of Directors*.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Amanda and seconded by Stephanie

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

<u>Agenda for 5:30pm September 27, 2022:</u>

Roll Call

Public Session

Call to Order

Review/Approval of August Meeting Minutes

New Business

Director's Update

Finance Committee

Fundraising Update