SIDE BY SIDE
CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Directors Meeting
April 25, 2023
Draft Minutes

Present: Nell Conroy, Matt Nittoly, Britnee Henderson, Colin Konkel, Larry Cafero, Sally Davids, Stephanie Cecio, Sally Davids, Amanda Gormley, Adam Norris, Ewa Derlukiewicz
Absent: Kim Grimm

Meeting began at 5:20 PM.

March minutes approved by Sally and Ewa.

Public Session

No member of the public attended this open meeting. All board meetings are open to the public and we welcome community participation. Please come and share your thoughts.

Community Member Visitation

Chiara Askew-Oliver and Deborah Whalen presented their candidacy to the board for the open positions of community board members. Both candidates answered questions and the board voted to offer the positions to both candidates.

Further research and discussion is needed into when their terms should start with consideration that the end of the school year is very close. Adam will review the charter requirements and Matt will reach out to the candidates once a determination is made.

Director Update:

I. 2023-24 School year
   a. 23-24 School Year Calendar proposed
   b. Only 37 days remaining!
   c. Currently seeking Music; SRBI Interventionist (1 year- ESSER)

II. SBS Summer Program (July 5-August 4)

a. Registration closed (70 students)
b. Collaboration with Carver

III. (SBAC) Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Assessments 4/25

IV. Side by Side enrollment lottery 2023 --Wed 4/26 at 5pm

V. Board Seats- two expiring/vacant Teacher seats on the Board have been presented to eligible faculty. Nominations are due by 5/5

VI. PARENT FORUM: The SBS Board is hosting a Parent Forum on Wed 5/3 at 6:30pm

Board voted to approve the school year calendar for 2023-2024.

Arts for Learning CT – We discussed the success of our collaboration at Side By Side this year. The students have enjoyed many of the musicians who have come to teach, so that part has been successful. But there is a missing rapport when the teachers are here for such a short time. Also this arrangement does not satisfy the desire for teaching instruments to interested students or putting on band concerts. Also the musicians are generally not certified teachers, which presents some challenges. SBS will continue to look for a full-time certified teacher to fill this vacancy.

Nell proposed looking at options to offer band and instrument instruction as an after school option. More research required.

Finance committee update:

Adam reviewed the current balance sheet. We remain in our expected position at this point in the year.

The Finance Committee is researching the proposed idea of splitting savings accounts to ensure we are completely covered by FDIC insurance in the event of a bank failure. The committee will return to the board with details of any changes for approval.

Matt received a call from a potential donor to the school who is very interested in supporting SBS. We will discuss again in the future once more details are worked out.

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Fundraising:

The Booster Thon Fun Run is scheduled and tee shirt sponsors have been finalized. Fundraising will begin on May 9th and the event will be held on Thursday, May 18th.

Playground Committee update:

The committee has been researching vendors who can assist with either design or implementation or both. Todd and Britnee volunteered the join the committee because more research is needed in order to determine the scope of this project.

Nell and Steph met with the landscape architecture firm that designed the Devin's Place playground and they proposed developing an architectural plan for both the playground and an outdoor learning space on the lawn in front of the nunnery. They estimate $5k to $8k to create this plan.

The board discussed whether the scope of this project should be a smaller refresh of the equipment itself or a bigger project to improve all of the outdoor spaces at a much greater cost. From initial research this could anywhere from $50k to $200k and we need to know a lot more before any decision can be made.

The committee will report back with more information next month.

Action items:

- Next official meeting will be on Tuesday, May 23, 2023
- Outdoor space committee to research companies that have renovated other play spaces in Norwalk to get some ideas for SBS and an idea of potential costs
- Approval of next year's calendar at the May board meeting

Meeting adjourned: Todd and Adam motioned to adjourn at 6:53 PM