SIDE BY SIDE
CHARTER SCHOOL

BOD Meeting:
FINAL/APPROVED MINUTES- October 24, 2023

Members Present: Britnee Henderson, Larry Cafero, Stephanie Cecio, Amanda Gormley, Sally Davids, Nell Conroy, Matt Nittoly, Deb Whelan, Adam Norris

Members Absent: Chiara Askew-Oliver, Kim Grimm, Todd Parkin

Meeting called to order at 5:17 PM. (Motion by SD; Second by NC)

September minutes approved by Stephanie and Amanda.
Public Session: *No members of the public were in attendance at this meeting*

Director Update:

I. **Enrollment**
Our student enrollment on 10/1 was 236 as anticipated. This is great news for our per pupil revenue

II. **Staffing update:**
(1) A new school receptionist has been hired

III. **Teaching & Learning Update:**

Now that fall benchmark testing is complete, teachers and students are busy with new learning and working on things that were still hard for students last year. Teachers in grades K-2 are receiving part one of a three part professional development series around effective instruction for ELL's and bilingual students on 10/24. Administration is currently working on completing the ARPA-Right to Read Grant, a non-competitive grant that will provide $14,000.00 for materials and supplies to support adoption of the mandated research based K-3 literacy curriculum initiative launched by CSDE. While CSDE requires this curriculum be implemented by the 2024-2025 school year, Side by Side implemented the approved, Expeditionary Learning literacy curriculum in 2020, and have been gradually phasing in some of the supplemental materials. This grant will allow us to purchase the final elements in hard copy and refurbish classroom libraries based on new content.

IV. Important annual state reports have been completed and submitted on time to CSDE including (a) The SBS Annual Report 2022-23; (b) School Safety & Security Report; (c) Federal Entitlement reports; (e) bilingual grant

V. A fall fundraiser, "Cheers & Beers" is scheduled for Friday, 11/3/23 at SpaceCat Brewing in Sono.

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Finance Committee:

Adam Norris led a discussion and review of the September monthly financial reports. There were no areas of concern to report

Fundraising:

The Fundraising Committee provided an update on the upcoming Beer & Cheers even next week (on 11/3). They are pleased with the number of donations and sponsorships and anticipate equally or exceeding the amount raised in prior years.

Special Education Discussion:

Matt informed the Board of an ongoing matter being investigated by the CSDE with regards to how special education funding is provided to charter school from host districts. There is a dispute between another CT Charter School and the City Board of Education where the school is located (Waterbury). This led to a discussion about how SBS and NPS handle the cost share requirement for Special Education students attending a charter school.

The model for special education reimbursement funding from Norwalk Public Schools was discussed. All CT Charter Schools are responsible for providing special education services to children who qualify (via PPT/IEP). However, the residing district (the Board of Education where the child resides) is fiscally responsible for special education costs. At Side by Side, the original model at inception in 1997 was for NPS to send a teacher to provide service 4x days per week. Now, for approx. the last 10 years SBS and NPS have a cost share agreement in place for hiring a SpEd teacher at Side by Side. SBS hires their own teacher and pays 20% of the salary and benefits for the teacher and NPS pays 80%. The SpEd teacher services all IEP students attending SBS