Board of Directors Meeting
February 27, 2024
Approved Minutes

Present: Stephanie Cecio, Amanda Gormley, Matt Nittoly, Deb Whalen, Chiara Askew-Oliver, Adam Norris, Kim Grimm, Nell Conroy, Sally Davids, Britnee Henderson

Absent: Larry Cafero

Meeting called to order at 5:21 PM.

January minutes approved by Chiara and Sally.

Public Session

No members of the public were in attendance at this meeting. Linda Simmons is attending this meeting as part of the school's business function to participate in the financial audit presentation.

Director Update:

I. **Facility grant update:** State Senator Bob Duff has been requested to intervene regarding Side by Side's request for nearly $350k in facility improvement projects including **A/C replacements; new floors and replacement exterior security doors**

II. Due to a lack of interest (as per survey results) and expiring grant funds, Side by Side will not be hosting a Carver Foundation summer school program this July-August.

III. **Teaching & Learning Update:**
After our reading grants approval last month, Side by Side is pleased to announce the creation of a literacy team that will help drive this exciting initiative. Teachers are Jessica Vitale, Tahira Nomani, Sean Whalen and Amanda Gormley. This team will help inspire excitement around this new initiative, and has already begun attending

state provided reading science professional development. Additionally, our new ELA curriculum for grades K-3 has arrived, and a spring parent night is being planned to share more details about our "Right to Read" plans moving forward.

IV. Side by Side enrollment lottery 2024 (important dates)

- Mon 1/22- online applications available (over 40 received on Monday 1/22)
- Wed 2/28 informational Open House at 10:30am
- Wed 3/20 informational session at 5:00pm
- Mon 4/8 lottery applications due by 4pm
- Wed 4/24 LOTTERY at 5pm

Financial Audit Presentation:

PKF O'Connor Davies presented their audit report findings.

Finance Committee:

The board reviewed the committee's financial report.

Fundraising:

- 1420 Distillery fundraiser will be held on Friday, May 3rd
- The Fun Run scheduling information should be available soon. We discussed which activities the upper school kids enjoyed the most and Sally volunteered to solicit feedback from upper school kids.

Action Items:

- The board voted to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar, which mirrors the Norwalk Public School calendar based primarily on our need to match bussing transportation schedules. Motion to approve by Amanda, Deb second, unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned: motion to adjourn at 6:13 PM. Nell and Deb approved the motion.