SIDE BY SIDE
CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Directors Meeting
April 23, 2024
Approved Minutes

Present: Larry Cafero, Amanda Gormley, Matt Nittoly, Deb Whalen, Adam Norris, Nell Conroy, Sally Davids, Todd Parkin, Stephanie Cecio, Britnee Henderson, Kim Grimm

Absent: Chiara Askew-Oliver

Meeting called to order at 5:13 PM.

March minutes approved by Stephanie and Amanda.

Public Session

No members of the public were in attendance at this meeting.

Director Update:

I. PDS (Professional Development School) Partnership with Quinnipiac University (UPDATE):

Side by Side has accepted placement for a cohort of 5 Quinnipiac university Residency Interns for the 2024-25 school year. The residents will be placed to work under the guidance of a mentor teacher in each classroom grades 1-5.

II. SBAC Testing:
- **a. ELA:** Week of April 22-26
- **b. Math:** Week of May 6 (LS); Week of May 13 (US)

III. 2024-25 School Year:
- a. Public lottery for student enrollment on 4/24/24 at 5pm
- b. Currently seeking applicants for teacher vacancies:
  - i. P/T (0.6) Art
  - ii. Middle School Science

c. Board of Directors 2024-25: Update on membership (see Action Items below)

IV. Teaching & Learning Update:

As we approach the end of April, we begin our spring Smarter Balanced Assessments testing window. Good luck everyone! We are also excited to announce that on ***Thursday, 4/25 from 6-7 in our Upper School building, we will be hosting a parent night*** in order to engage in a conversation with parents about how we are approaching ***Social Emotional Learning*** here at Side by Side. We are excited to have special guests JAMES MARTINEZ, former administrator of counseling for Norwalk Public Schools, SHAARON SINVILCIN, Director of Initiatives, Norwalk ACTS, and ANAMILENA MORENO, Side by Side alumni and Community Engagement Coordinator, Norwalk ACTS to help us with this parent engagement initiative. The goal for this even is to help parents understand the importance of social emotional learning, the ways it effects students' mental health and academic success, and how Side by Side is looking to partner with parents in the future. Help spread the word!

Finance Committee:

The board reviewed the committee's financial report.

Fundraising:

- April 1420 Distillery cocktails for a cause event:
  - Food truck secured
  - Need additional donation items
  - Board members asked to spread the word motivate people to RSVP
- BoosterTHON fun run:
  - Contract signed
  - Todd to reach out to previous corporate sponsors

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Action Items:

- Larry made a motion to allow Matt and Nell to secure a venue for a retirement party within reasonable fiscal limits. Seconded by Todd. Motion approved.
- Board member terms that expire in June:
    - Sally – Enjoy your retirement!
    - Larry – has agreed to return for another 2-year term
    - Amanda – has agreed to return for next year
    - Todd and Britnee – terms expiring, both would like to continue participating, need to self-nominate as per Adam's emailed instructions

Meeting adjourned: motion to adjourn at 6:27 PM. Deb and Britnee seconded.