SIDE BY SIDE
CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Directors Meeting
September 24, 2024
Approved Minutes

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

Absent: Chiara Askew-Oliver

Meeting called to order at 5:18 PM.

Motion to approve August meeting minutes made by Steph and Kim. Approved by all present members.

Director Update:

I. **STAFFING UPDATE:** *We are fully staffed with no current vacancies*
II. **TEACHING & LEARNING:**

- ✓ **Upcoming professional development:**
  As we approach the end of September, K-5 teachers have been busy participating in their professional development funded by our "Right to Read" reading grants. They have participated in new learning around their core, Expeditionary Learning curriculum, as well as training using the M-Class platform which will assist them in scoring and creating reading groups based on their K-3 reading screening data. In pre-school, teachers have begun looking at the curriculum as we work toward implementing a new kindergarten readiness curriculum for our 4 year olds. In Math- grades 4-8 math teachers are familiarizing themselves with Eureka Math 2, the new and improved version of our Common Core aligned Eureka math, school wide curriculum. Lastly, our upper school team is working on refining our interdisciplinary units in order reintroduce them as part of core, middle school curriculum.

- ✓ **Back to School Nights:**

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The Lower School (9/18) and Upper School (9/11) Back to School Nights were both successful and had favorable turnouts from parents. For the upper School, parents and their children participated in a large group "town-hall" style venue to explore the expectations and common difficulties of middle school. This always serves as a great opportunity to update parents on expectations for their middle school age children. On the Lower School night, parents had the opportunity to visit their child's homeroom class to hear about plans and the scope and sequence for learning during the 2024-25 school year.

- ✓ **Misc:**
  School will be closed on 10/3 Rosh Hashanah; 10/14 Columbus Day and 10/15 is a Professional day for teachers only.

III. Lower School Air Conditioning Project:

The scheduled HVAC project was completed on time with minimal change orders required. The project total was $226,000 and included replacement of existing units; removal and replacement of ceiling tiles; 3 new wall units; new thermostat controls for all classrooms.

Finance committee:

- The Finance Committee was unable to meet before this meeting. We will discuss reports for both months at the next meeting.

Fundraising committee:

- Fundraising brainstorming session for this year, to be continued:
- Spacecat will the first fundraiser in the fall (Deb to coordinate some possible dates)
  - They have a new party room next door, which may make for a more private event
- The Fun Run will be scheduled for the spring, date TBD
- Consider re-running the 1420 event in the spring, which should be more successful without a bridge fire preventing traffic flow for most of the city
- Other ideas:
  - A more family-friendly event, perhaps at Ripka's at the beach
  - Fodor Farm has nice outdoor space and gives a discount for Norwalk non-profits
  - Something indoors, perhaps a bingo night (popular in the past) or a potluck

NOTE: Local mural artist Fivefingaz has been in contact with the school about giving a presentation at an all school meeting and possibly painting a mural on school property. There are many conversations and details to work through, but possibly the mural can be part of a fundraising event.

Meeting adjourned: motion to adjourn at 6:08 PM by Deb. Seconded by Sally. All present members agreed to adjourn.