SIDE BY SIDE
CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Directors Meeting
February 25, 2025
Approved Minutes

Present: Matt Nittoly, Anne Dichele, Todd Parkin, Deb Whalen, Amanda Gormley, Stephanie Cecio, Nicole Shagoury, Nell Conroy, Kim Grimm

Absent: Larry Cafero, Adam Norris

Meeting called to order at 5:20 PM.

Motion to approve January meeting minutes made by Steph and Nell. Approved by all present members.

Yamina Berrabeh-Mayen joined this meeting for the public session.

Director Update:

I. Teaching & Learning Update:

Side by Side's English Language Learners are busy taking their annual LAS Links assessment. This assessment measures progress toward English proficiency in the areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. This year approximately 38% of our K-8 students are English Language learners still in need of official Title III services.

8th grade students who participated in last year's artist residency with the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art were invited to participate in an exciting collaboration between the Aldrich and the Kennedy Center called The Scrollathon: Uniting America, a project intending to communicate "what unites us is stronger than what divides us." The eight, Side by Side students who volunteered, along with a parent, will create two scrolls that represents a personal story or statement. One scroll they will keep in a souvenir tin and the other will become part of a larger artwork that will bring together the creative expressions of over 250,000 people from all fifty states, five territories, Washington, DC, and Native Community Regional Centers. This multimedia, collaborative project will be exhibited at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC in the summer of 2026 to an audience of over 2 million visitors. This date was chosen to celebrate the American Semiquincentennial, We can't wait to hear all about our students' experience!

II. School Year Calendar 2025-26 (Draft proposal for Board approval) see attached

- 182 student days
- 187 contracted teacher days
- 185 TA days (one more than norm)
- Early release PD days, holidays and breaks mimic NPS schedule

III.

On 2/1/25 Miss Judie Goldstein passed away at the age of 60. Judie was part of the original faculty at Side by Side since our inception and remained the face of our Preschool through the 2023-24 school year. Judie was a beautiful and loving parent, teacher, and friend to all who had the good fortune of knowing her.

Several SBS staff and families have requested that the school recognize Judie with some sort of memorial or commemorative naming at part of the school.

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

- Wed 2/26 (TOMORROW) informational Open House at 10:30am
- Wed 3/19 informational session at 5:00pm
- Tues 4/1 lottery applications due by 4pm
- Wed 4/30 LOTTERY at 5pm

V. Agenda requests for March 25 , 2025 meeting:

- PKF O'Connor Davies (Accountants) annual financial presentation; 5:30pm on Tuesday, 3/25
- Submission of proposal for Side by Side's Increasing Educator Diversity plan (IED)
- 2025-26 academic school year calendar

Finance committee:

- Kim presented a review of the financial reporting to date. There are no significant variances from the budget.
- Moving money to a high yield account (either savings or COD)
- Accountant's presentation is scheduled for next month's meeting at 5:30
- Matt will be presenting a diversity in education staffing plan at a future meeting

Fundraising committee:

- Sedona Taphouse fundraiser on Mondays in March to defray costs for the 8th grade trip to Washington, DC

- The Spring Walkathon planning meeting will take place in the next few weeks to finalize details, but expect the same plan as last year
- Ideas for additional fund-raisers:
    - Pizza-making kits for sale at Planet Pizza (this was a big hit last time)
    - Student lasertag night (location TBD)
    - Bowlero night (need to follow up with Bowlero, but they expressed interest)

Alumni Committee:

- Courtney will take the initiative to start gathering information
- The initial goal is to build a list of alumni, contact info, if attended college, employment, location, etc.

Action Items:

- Board members to continue to solicit membership of new community board members

Meeting adjourned: motion to adjourn at 6:26 PM by Steph. Seconded by Deb. All present members agreed to adjourn.