SIDE BY SIDE
CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Directors Meeting
March 25, 2025
Approved Minutes

Present: Matt Nittoly, Anne Dichele, Todd Parkin, Deb Whalen, Amanda Gormley, Stephanie Cecio, Nicole Shagoury, Nell Conroy, Larry Cafero, Kim Grimm, Adam Norris, Linda Simmons

Absent: [none]

Meeting called to order at 5:15 PM.

Motion to approve February meeting minutes made by Nell and Deb. Approved by all present members.

Motion to approve 2025-2026 calendar made by Stephanie and Anne. Approved by all present members.

Director Update:

I. **Teaching & Learning Update:**
Side By Side's 7th grade is once again participating in an artist partnership project with the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art called *Common Ground.* This year, a key component of this "STEAM" study will be to have an artist in residence in coordination with in-person museum educators the week of Monday April 7th- through Friday April 11th. This year, students will engage with the work of sculpture artist Yoko Fukuyama. Yoko, a Japanese artist currently working in New York, explores issues of overconsumption, consumerism and sustainability in her work. Often using the ocean as a backdrop, one of the goals embedded in her work is to foster a dialogue between humans and nature. Because of this, this residency will overlap with our students' Soundwaters trip and our Water and Sustainability interdisciplinary unit, which also focuses on issues of overconsumption, sustainability and humans' relationships with our natural environment. We are excited for students to engage in this truly interdisciplinary project.

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. Side by Side's Increasing Educator Diversity (IED) plan
- On 2/7/25 SBS was informed that we do not have a required "IED" plan on file with the CSDE. The plan is required by statute and must receive Board approval before submission
- Attached is a draft plan that integrates the mission and vision of SBS into its plans for recruiting and hiring faculty

IV. Side by Side enrollment lottery 2024 (important dates)
- Tues 4/1 lottery applications due by 4pm
- Wed 4/30 LOTTERY at 5pm

V. Nomination for New community Member to the Board at SBS

I would like to formally nominate Mr. James Martinez as a prospective Community member to the Side by Side Board of Directors effective July 2025. (Resume; LOI attached)

Presentation by Accountants

Jennifer and Katie from PKF O'Connor Davies presented a recap from our annual audit.

Finance committee:

- Adam presented a review of the financial reporting to date. There are no significant variances from the budget.
- As agreed to in a previous meeting, 250k has been moved a certificate of deposit account at a 4.25% interest rate.

Fundraising committee:

- Deb discussed ideas for reaching out to area restaurants for giveback events, which have been well received
- Looking to get more people involved in outreach to local businesses

- Discussion or whether now is a good time to get a PTO organized again to spearhead some of the fundraising efforts
- Overall categories for events:
    - Events that involve the community (less fund-raising and more school cohesion)
    - Events that raise funds
    - Long-term planning to raise big funds
- Need to discuss how to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the school in 2027
- Deb to follow up on ideas for an event at O'Neill's, who are interested in working with us more

Action Items:

- Work is underway to prepare a new contract for Matt and Mary
- Add to next meeting's agenda to vote on the proposed new community board member

Meeting adjourned: motion to adjourn at 6:32 PM by Stephanie. Seconded by Anne. All present members agreed to adjourn.