

Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
February 13, 2020, 4:30 pm.
5625 Loyola Avenue, Rm.101

Present: Ruby Board, Joe Caverly, Jeff Clayman, Joan Coulter, Tamika Duplessis, Jennifer Fallon, Cathy Glaser, Kathy Parsons, Mary Zervigon

Absent: Amritha Appaswami, Shannon Fazande, Liz Landry, Jim Schnieders, Najah Shakir

Staff: Chanda Burks, Monique Cola, Melanie Flot, Christina Hull

Foundation: Dr. Barbara Beckman, April Okpo

Guests: Jessica Wheeler, Rosemary Szilagi, Quentin Board, Danalyn Hypolite, Derek Rankins

Notice of the meeting was posted at the school and the agenda was posted on the school website in accordance with the open meetings law.

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education was called to order by the chair, Jennifer Fallon, on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 4:40 pm. Our guests introduced themselves.

The meeting did not begin with the minutes being presented and approved because there was not a quorum.

Financial Report: (Melanie Flot)

- **Accounts Receivable:** As of 1/31/2020, there was \$356,841 in accounts receivables.
- **Profit & Loss:** As of 1/31/2020, the P & L shows a net loss of \$111,042.
- **Finance Dashboard:** Bank reconciliation reflects the register balance at the end of January 31, 2020 was \$1,297,947. The book cash balance value as of February 11, 2020 is \$1,219,360 representing approximately two months of cash on hand. Finance forecasts approximately \$635,402 income in January 2020. Finance forecasts approximately \$600,560 expenses in the month of January 2020.

Melanie reported that the audit was filed and the only finding was that the audit was filed late. The finance committee discussed meeting in the near future with our auditors, as well as, NOLA Public Schools to discuss the costs and new expenses to expect and how to plan and prepare to transition to the new building. Before that meeting, the finance committee will meet with the Foundation Board to discuss equipment procurement.

The Finance Report was received by the Board.

Head of School Report for February 2020: (Dr. Monique Cola)

- **Enrollment:** As of Oct.1 2019, we had 456 students enrolled vs As of Feb. 1, 2020, we had 459 students enrolled.
- Socioeconomic Data: 251 Direct Certs. (50%); Free/Reduced Lunch: 56%; 20 Homeless Students; English Language Learners (ELL): 9
Special Education: IEPs - 61; 504s - 44 (22.8% total)

- **School Culture:** Suspensions 35 (7.5%) Expulsions: 2 (less than 1%)
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Volleyball (17 students) 5 wins, 10 losses; Boys basketball JV/V (10 students) JV: 1 win, 4 losses V: 1 win, 12 losses; Girls Basketball (9 students) 5 wins, 8 losses; Cheerleading (13 students), Drumline/Color Guard (13 students), Dance (10 students) and Majorettes (7 students).
- **Highlights**
Digital media class was featured on WGNO News on Feb. 3rd for their new film, “Empathy”
- **682** 2020-2021 One app applications; 597 of the 682 applications are for 9th grade. We will receive our match list soon and begin our outreach plan to everyone on the list.
- **Important Dates**
 - Wed., Feb. 12th – Greater New Orleans Science & Engineering Fair, Tulane University – 30 students are participated and 23 placed.
 - Sat., Feb. 15th, 10:00am. – Red Carpet Premiere of Sci High Film, “Empathy” – Prytania Theater, Tickets \$5.00. Event will be televised and all proceeds will benefit the Sci High Film & Digital Media Program
 - Tues., Feb. 18th, 6pm – 7:30pm – Annual Black History Program

The Head of School Report was received by the Board.

SPED Presentation: (Rosemary Szilagi, Dir. Of Student Support Services)

Vision: To ensure all Exceptional Children Services (ECS) students participate in the most rigorous educational opportunities, making it possible to achieve their personal post-secondary goals.

Students being served: (25.8% students receive support)

1. 64 students with an IEP (Individualized Education Program) – a written statement for a child with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised in a meeting in keeping with certain requirements of law and regulations.
2. 43 students with an IAP (504) – (Section 504 Individual Accommodation Plan) – Sec. 504 is an anti-discrimination, civil rights statute that requires the needs of students with disabilities to be met.
3. 11 students receiving ELL (English-language learners) – students who are unable to communicate fluently or learn effectively in English.

An evaluation process determines if the child receives an IEP or (504) IAP. A pie chart was displayed to reflect Sci High’s diverse learners. Sci High offers 2 support spaces. The Learning Lab is a quiet independent work space where students receive additional academic support, small group testing and tutoring from content area teachers and Tulane tutors. The Great Space is an area designed to provide social emotional support, and behavior intervention using restorative practices to all Sci High Students. Students learn how to advocate for themselves to go to the correct space when necessary.

Accomplishments:

- Sci High was recognized by NOLA Public Schools as a 2018 Equity honoree.
- We scored a 97% equity rate for the services we provide to Special Education Students.
- This year we will be graduating 21 ECS students.
- 3 of these students will be graduating with a Jumpstart diploma and 18 with a TOPS diploma.

At 4:58 pm there was a quorum. Jennifer Fallon made a motion to add Jessica Wheeler to the agenda to present on the Sci High Goes to Yucatan Trip. 11 students, 1 parent chaperone and 3 teacher chaperones will travel to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico this summer. The ten day trip will include service projects working with local organizations and communities on the issue of access to clean water, collecting and bringing donations for a local elementary school, visiting two ancient Maya sites and more. Our Sci High Grand Challenge is going international!

In order for the trip to happen, the school must raise \$25,000. In addition to a GoFundMe page set up for the trip, there will be a variety of fundraising events, a silent auction, grants applied for and each student has a \$500 fundraising goal.

The January 18, 2020 Advocates Board Meeting minutes were presented and approved. (Mary Zervigon moved and Jeff Clayman seconded).

Report of the Foundation: (April Opko)

FY 19-20: Total received and committed funds restricted to educational programming to date is \$321,980, this is 92% of our \$350,000 goal.

Invoices submitted by the school for reimbursements are being reviewed by the Co-Treasurers.

The search committee, which includes Advocates Board Member, Mary Zervigon, has begun a search for a new Director of Development.

Capital Campaign: Total committed funds generated by the capital campaign to date are \$1,155,885 exceeding the goal of \$1,100,000. Now that the capital campaign is complete, the Foundation is in the process of reporting out what was received and sending out an impact piece. Also, invitations will be sent to donors and contributors for a small celebration, hosted by Dr. Beckman.

The Foundation Report was received by the Board.

Committee Reports:

Governance In Naj Shakir's absence, a formal resolution was read by Board Chair, Jennifer Fallon and was approved by the board.

- In order to be in compliance with NOLA Public Schools Portfolio Innovation and Accountability, on the 13th day of February 2020, the New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School Board of Directors has established a process for fulfilling the Expanded Board Member Composition Requirement, defined in the Parent Board Representation Policy, that will be posted on the New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School

website. The procedure for membership was presented and adopted by the Advocates for Science and Mathematics Education, Inc. Joe Caverly moved and Joan Coulter seconded.

Facilities Jeff Clayman stated the committee met to discuss their goals and how they could help Dr. Cola by reviewing the lease agreement concerning inspections and the necessary repairs in the current building.

With no other business to discuss, Jeff Clayman made a motion for the Board to adjourn and it was seconded by Cathy Glaser. The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chanda Burks, Executive Assistant to Head of School