

Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
May 20, 2021, 4:30 pm.
Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom

Present: Amritha Appaswami, Ruby Board, Tap Bui, Joe Caverly, Jeff Clayman, Joan Coulter, Jennifer Fallon, Cathy Glaser, Liz Landry, Jim Schneiders, Mary Zervigon

Absent: Tamika Duplessis, Najah Shakir

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

Foundation: Andrea Williams, Curtis Pellerin

Guests: Susan Becker, NOPS Paige Jackson

Notice of the meeting and agenda were emailed to the school faculty and staff, as well as posted at the school and 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 Board Chair, Jennifer Fallon, on Thursday, May 20, 2021 once there was a quorum at 4:37 pm. Roll call was done of the Advocates attending the virtual meeting.

The April 15, 2021 Advocates Board Meeting minutes were presented and approved. Joan Coulter moved for approval and Jim Schneiders seconded.

Financial Report: (Melanie Flot/Jim Schneiders)

- **Accounts Receivable:** As of 4/30/2021, there was \$360,776 in accounts receivable.
- **Profit & Loss:** The P & L shows a net loss of \$311,352.
- **Finance Dashboard:** Bank reconciliation reflects the register balance at the end of April 30, 2021 was \$1,725,986. The book cash balance value as of May 3, 2021 is \$1,660,411 representing approximately three months of cash on hand. Finance forecasts approximately \$1,158,674 income in May 2021. Finance forecasts approximately \$688,160 expenses in the month of May 2021.

There has been an increase in the MFP allocation. The adjustment will be corrected for next month's reporting. The proposed FY21 summer school budget was included in the financial report. The budget was based on enrollment of 250 students and 28 faculty/staff. The summer school budget is self-sustaining and will not affect the 2021-2022 school year due to ESSER funds as the primary funding source, as well as a \$20,000 grant received from New Schools for New Orleans(NSNO). The grant awarded by NSNO can be used for summer 2021 learning and expenses not funded through ESSER funds.

Jim Schneiders recommended science field trips to places such as Stennis Space Center in Mississippi and The Nature Center in New Orleans East. The Foundation has a board member that works at Stennis. The budget was approved by the Finance Committee and a roll call was done by the Advocates to also approve the FY21 Summer School Budget.

The Finance Report was received by the Board.

Report of the Foundation: (Andrea Williams)

Andrea Williams reported that the FSME has \$171,666 committed to educational programming for the current fiscal year. \$121,500 has been received. An additional \$97,500 in proposed funding is pending from fall and spring grant submissions. A new grant from New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO) has been awarded in the amount of \$20,000 for summer learning and programming. A grant proposal to the Halliburton Foundation for Girls in STEM in the amount of \$25,000 was most recently submitted. Andrea Williams thanked everyone that assisted in the successful 2021 GiveNOLA campaign that raised \$16,085 from more than 100 donors! Sci High faculty, Mr. Oatis and two FSME Board members created their own campaigns to raise funds for Sci High. THE FSME and Advocates Board donated a total of \$6,190.

The first of Sci High’s 2021 Annual Students STEM Awards were presented at graduation rehearsal. Each student received a glass plaque and a \$1000 check. Annually, each of the four departments (science, math, technology or CTE, and engineering) will select one ambitious Sci High senior to receive the STEM award. This year’s winners are listed below under Highlights in the Head of School report.

FSME husband and wife donors presented the Jill Meyers and Dr. Sidney Brownstein Scholarship in the amount of \$20,000 to Jordan Hunter. Tianna Antoine, also received a \$500 scholarship for making such a huge impression on the donors.

Andrea Williams thanked the Advocates for rocking at fulfilling their annual pledges; we are one Board member away from 100% Board participation before June 30th.

The Foundation Report was received by the Board.

Head of School Report – May 20, 2021: (Dr. Monique Cola)

- I. Dashboard
- A. Enrollment:

	Targets 2020-21	May 18, 2021	Oct. 1 2020
9th	140	146	145
10th	125	127	134
11th	125	110	114
12th	115	101	111
TOTAL	505	484	504

- Socioeconomic Data: Economically disadvantaged – 379 (77.5%. as per LDOE 2/1/21); 178 (36% Free/Reduced Lunch [vs. 254 (55%) in 2019])
- Special Education: IEPs – 57; 504s – 38; 11 – ELL (21% total)

B. School Culture: Attendance

- Semester 1: Daily Average = 83%
- Semester 2: Daily Average = 86.0%
- Year 20-21: Daily Average = 84.5% (vs. 92.5% in 2019)

II. Updates

A. One App

- Main Round: 234 = New Matches (200 Freshmen & 34 Upper Class Matches)
- 2nd Round ends 5/21/21: 141 = Total apps (100 Freshmen & 41 Upper Class Matches)

Larissa Smith, our registrar is aggressively and successfully reaching out to prospective matches to submit their registration paperwork; over 50% registration is completed. Future Nautili Day was held this past Saturday to showcase Sci High to prospective students and their families. About 50 families attended, toured the building and met Sci High teachers and students.

B. Small group and individual building tours are being conducted by FSME.

C. Graduation will be at UNO Lakefront Arena on May 26th at 3:00pm. Masks and tickets are required for entrance. Advocates may contact Ms. Burks for tickets.

D. S.T.E.P Summer Program begins with a parent orientation on Saturday, June 5th. The four week, four day, Monday through Thursday half day program will run Monday, June 7th – Thursday, July 1st. The program is comprised of 3 components:

- STEP UP – 11th & 12th grade students credit recovery and LEAP 2025 remediation
- STEP AHEAD – Acceleration for rising 10th & 11th grade students
- STEP IN – Freshman Experience to help 9th graders transition into high school

So far, 50 students have registered.

III. Highlights

A. U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools: Top 10 of New Orleans based Charter Schools – Sci High ranks #5

B. Sci High ranked in the top 5 of 68 entries at the Louisiana Film Prize, Jr.

C. The seniors were very excited and shocked when the first recipients of Sci High's 2021 Annual Students STEM Awards were presented at graduation rehearsal. Representing the four departments (science, math, technology or CTE, and engineering), the following ambitious Sci High seniors received the STEM award:

- Laila Clark - Henrietta Lacks Science Achievement Award in Science
- Christopher Murphy - Katherine Johnson Mathematics Achievement Award in Mathematics
- Melanie Trejo - Granville T. Woods Technology Achievement Award in Technology
- Michael Smith - Mae Jemison Engineering Achievement Award in Engineering

The Head of School Report was received by the Board.

Report of the Chair: (Jennifer Fallon)

Jennifer Fallon updates began with her excitement about the upcoming S.T.E.P program. It is hopefully the first step into an annual program. She informed our attorneys, Joe Caverly and Jeff Clayman that their assistance is needed in reviewing the additional repairs that NOPS and Lusher provided the Director of Operations on April 30th when the lease of the old building was terminated.

Two policy drafts that were circulated for discussion and review: The Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Sexual Abuse and Molestation Policy. After discussion, it was determined that both drafts require revisions and additional review by our attorneys. It is the goal to have both policies ready

by the July Advocates Board meeting to be voted on and adopted by the Board. Jennifer Fallon reminded the Board that they want 100% annual giving. She also encouraged everyone to attend the graduation. She polled the Advocates to see how they would feel about the July Board meeting being in person. The meeting can be safely held in the school cafeteria, with everyone wearing masks. Even though some COVID protocols have been relieved, Sci High will maintain safe and effective COVID protocols.

In July, Jennifer Fallon would like the Board to have a discussion on the role of the Advocates and making public statements in regards to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Committee Reports:

Governance: No Updates, the last meeting was cancelled.

Head of School: Tap Bui updated that the data from the staff survey in February was provided to Dr. Cola. After it was looked at by the administration team and provided to faculty/staff, Dr. Cola replied to the HOS committee with her feedback. The committee also launched an assessment to administration and the Board. 17 of 23 responses were submitted. A report will be generated and discussed at the July Board meeting.

Facilities: No Updates.

No Public Comments

With no other business to discuss, Jeff Clayman made a motion for the Board to adjourn and it was seconded by Tap Bui. The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 pm. The meeting was also being recorded.

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