



**MEETING MINUTES
CAPITAL CITY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR SESSION**

November 3, 2015

Attendance:

Trustees: Anne Wallestad, Alison Arnold, Jean-Claude Brizard, Alix Guerrier, Rochanda Hiligh-Thomas, Nick Rodriguez, Raël Nelson James, Hiram Puig-Lugo, Fred Sherman

Staff: Karen Dresden, Molly Whalen, Jonathan Weinstein, Belicia Reaves, Dominique Coote

Guests: Chip Chase, Lew Weinstein (Jon's father/guest), Susan Ebersole (CBP Fellow by phone)

Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm

Welcome and Mission Moment:

Breakthrough Schools Project (Chip: Director of Library Services and Integrated Technology)

Chip Chase presented about Capital City's blended learning program. Blended learning is a way to use technology in service of learning and examples were shown in Lower School, Middle School, and High School classrooms. This program is advanced by a planning grant through City Bridge. The benefits are that students are self-directed in their learning and this mirrors the kind of work they may do in college. The first phase focused on the High School students (last year), but the next phase of this model expanded the work to Middle School and Lower School classrooms. Discussion followed the presentation.

Finance Resolution

Board reviewed the proposed finance resolution regarding the contract approval process. Two Whereas clauses were combined to improve clarity. Board also directed changes to clarify sequence of events to ensure no contracts result in a conflict of interest for trustees. This involved staff review of trustee declarations of potential conflicts prior to any contract decision and a review of contracts submitted to DCPCSB to ensure no new conflicts exist.

The changes were made and the resolution was unanimously approved in its revised form.

School Performance Presentation

Karen presented high school data from 2015 PARCC testing. PARCC was used for the first time last year and it driven towards college-readiness. PARCC performance levels look different from DC-CAS; there

are five levels of proficiency instead of four. Results show that Capital City high school students did about the same as District peers in math, but performed better in Reading/Language Arts reflecting the school's focus on reading and writing across the curriculum. Low-Income students at Capital City did significantly better than District peers, especially in reading. Capital City has a high percentage of students approaching college readiness (scoring 3 and above) in both reading and math. This shows that students are poised to meet college readiness standards in the next few years.

Capital City expects to receive scores for Lower and Middle School soon and will share with the board. The school is planning a parent data meeting in early December to share results with parents.

Facilities / Development Update

Jonathan shared updated renderings for our theater project. Construction is not anticipated to begin until the Summer 2016. The goal ultimately is for the theatre to be completed in February 2017. The budget and design is geared towards a price of about \$4.3 million. Capital City received a \$750,000 grant from SOAR, which significantly offsets costs from our reserves; we only need about \$3.1-3.3 million from reserves for the project. This will leave \$450,000 to be raised from a Capital Campaign.

While it is possible to contribute more reserve funding to the project if fundraising were to fall short, we want to advantage of this project to engage new donors and to firm up our existing donor base. This is an exciting driver for an annual appeal this year because many funders want to give to something specific. Development wants to establish some small special events (i.e. hardhat tour, hosted events) and is planning an intimate event in January or February to celebrate the 15th anniversary in someone's private home. The plan is to get Board members to bring a friend and potential funder to such an event. We also want to be sure to create a buzz about this theater in the larger DC theater and arts community. If Board members have names of people who need to know about this, they should speak to Molly.

The regular meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:05.

Executive Session (Anne)