

Omar D. Blair Charter School

Tuesday, January 21, 2014

6:00PM – 7:30PM

Board members present: Vernon Jones Jr. – Aniekan Ekiko – Rachel Sandoval – Dan Jacobs – John V. Smith

Board member absent: Isabella Allen

General Board Meeting of the Omar D. Blair Charter School (Library)

- I. Greetings from Board President
 - a. Board chair Jones welcomed everyone to this evening's board meeting. He acknowledged the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and how our commitment to educating all students well will transform the jangling discords of our time.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Installation of new board members by Mr. John V. Smith
 - a. John V. Smith has served on the ODB board for the last nine years. He will be ending his service after we have selected a new principal for ODB.
 - b. Mr. Smith gave the board members a history of the school and the board history. He spoke highly of the new additions to the board and saw their immediate. He then continued to install them with our board pledge.
- IV. Public Comment
 - a. Kim Bell (Staff and parent) – shared her concern regarding 4th grade teacher opening. Board chair communicated that this is a personnel matter that Principal Blair-Minter is dealing with. Also asked a question about the principal selection process. Board chair gave a brief overview of the process and timeline, which will be posted, once approved by the board this evening. Asked if the board chair (Vernon Jones) was leaving the board because she heard rumors. Reaffirmed to her that rumors were not true.
- V. Old Business
 - a. Approval of 12/17/2013 Minutes
 - i. Moved by Mr. Smith. Seconded by Mr. Ekiko. Approved Unanimously.
- VI. New Business
 - a. Financial Review
 - i. Jim introduced himself and his role to the new board members.
 - ii. He reminded new board members of the monthly finance call
 - iii. Talked about Title I \$60,000 dollars that would be used for RtI (not in budget yet)
 - iv. PARCC readiness – school received \$90,000. Talked about the purchases that were made to bring the school into compliance. School will be certified in early February by the district.
 - v. Jim did a high level overview of the Charter Board Account
 - b. Safety and Security

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- i. DPS has asked school to run drills again by 1/31/14
 - ii. Jim talked about simulating incidents during drills
 - iii. Went over safety procedures related to fire drills
 - iv. Lockdown drills with GVR Recreation Center
 - 1. Jim will provide the board with data from drills at next board meeting
- c. Principal's Reports
 - i. Shared her video presentation
 - ii. Shared current membership report with board/board chair asked questions about attendance
 - iii. Meeting with the planning department to talk about offerings for next year. Debbi shared about communications that Mr. Boasberg had with school leaders.
 - iv. Board chair brought up the issue of building capacity. District would like to add a MI program to our building (K-8) and grow it over time. The district will approach our board about expanding the facility to support additional ECE and K seats.
 - v. Talked about the 2014-2015 calendar.
 - vi. Intent to Return Conversations will be held the week of February 18, 2014
 - vii. 2014-2015 Budget need to have a conversation.
 - 1. Board chair communicated a commitment to not make 2014-2015 budget decisions without the new leader and/or leadership team
 - viii. Discipline concerns. Drug activity with middle school students. Spoke of the lack of transformation from students that were suspended for the offenses. Shared with us the details of the students that were in trouble. Has a desire to bring in dogs to search building.
- d. Assistant Principal's Reports
 - i. She feels aware of who the offenders are related to the drug offenses. She talked about an emergency community where students took the lead on community transformation. 8th graders have stepped up to mentor. Have requested counseling supports for students.
 - ii. Director Ekiko asked about parent engagement. There have been discussions with parents regarding bathroom privileges that have changed due to how the incident took place. Believes that a "hard facts" approach will be best. There is an emergency community meeting tomorrow
 - iii. Direct Jacobs shared his concerns about using drug dogs to solve the problems within the school.
 - iv. Director Sandoval asked a question regarding school counseling supports. AP Martin talked about Safety Plans and how they include counseling and other supports for students. She spoke about the DPS partnership with Children's Hospital.
 - v. AP Martin has worked with DPS and other resources related to habitual behaviors.

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- vi. Director Jones asked about Edison Learning's support. Mrs. Hansen committed to continued support. AP Martin thanked Mrs. Hansen and applauded students who spoke up. Desire to shift the focus to the positive rather than on the minimal disruptions.
- vii. Director Jacobs talked about communicating the long term impacts of a drug charge.
- viii. AP Martin continued to talk about the holistic approach that we are taking
- ix. Behavior data was shared. There has been an increase in unacceptable behaviors: practical jokes in the lunch room, horse play in cafeteria, bus stops, and classrooms. Challenges have come with newer teachers. Have implemented a new teacher cohort that is reading "The First Day of School" book study. There are 11 teachers involved in the study.
- x. Director Jones asked, what is teacher duty schedule? (Cafeteria) AP Martin affirmed that there is a duty schedule but it is not consistently implemented.
- xi. Reviewed lesson plans and discovered that the greatest behavior issues are happening in classrooms where non-engaging lessons are being presented.
- xii. Showed the ODB shirts to boost community spirit
 - 1. For all members of ODB community. Shirts are \$5188
 - 2. Talked about school store and fundraising

VII. Executive Session (began at 7:47PM)

- a. Personnel – Final Review of Principal Selection Process
- b. Edison Learning Contract Discussions
- c. Proposed February 8, 2014 8AM-1PM as annual board retreat.
- d. Executive session ended at 8:28PM

VIII. Board President's Recommendations

- a. No recommendations

IX. Adjournment

- a. Moved by Sandoval. Seconded by Jacobs. Unanimously approved. (8:29PM)