

PVPA Charter Public School
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2017

Present: James Barnhill, Rachel Dionne, Noah Hornick, Gary Huggett, Marc Kenen, Sean Moore, Alison Noyes, Jorge Rodriguez, Zevey Steinitz, Geoff Sumi, Stephen Therrien, Melinda Winter

Staff Present: Marcy Conner, George Simpson

Next meeting: October 10, 2017; 6:00pm; Library

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm with quorum.

Mission Statement:

Read by Jorge Rodriguez

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Minutes:

May 2, 2017 minutes were approved as presented (8 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions)

June 13, 2017 minutes were approved as presented (8 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions)

June 27, 2017 minutes were approved as presented (8 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions)

President's Business: (presented by Geoff Sumi)

- Welcome to the new Head of School
- Update on Board membership and welcome to new members

Geoff welcomed our new Head of School, George Simpson. Geoff also welcomed the new members to the Board – Marc Kenen and Jorge Rodriguez. A prospective member (Shubhada Rella-Brooks) also sat in on the meeting to obtain a better understanding of what is required from members. Board members introduced themselves for the benefit of any new members.

- Update on Open Meeting Law complaints (May 30, 2017)

Geoff gave a brief history of the Open Meeting complaints. The Attorney General is investigating the complaints and has requested e-mail records from April 28, 2017 – May 12, 2017 for all Board Members. Thom Vreeland will gather the

information and forward it to the Board's attorney so that it may be submitted to the Attorney General.

- Proposal for appointment of Head of School Evaluation Committee

Geoff Sumi proposed that the Committee utilize the DESE Superintendent Standards as a rubric to create the Head of School Evaluation tool. Geoff also proposed that a committee be created and charged to collect data and streamline the process for creating the evaluation tool. Geoff indicated that the committee should consist of the President, Treasurer, two at large Board members and one non-board member.

After some discussion, a motion was made and approved by consensus to allow the Board President to appoint the Evaluation Committee. (10 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions)

Board President appointed the following members to the committee – Geoff Sumi (President), Deb Jacobson (Treasurer), Marc Kenen (Board Member), Zevey Steinitz (Board Member), Tiphareth Ananda (Non-Board Member).

- Proposal for Community Arts Event

George discussed how he envisions an event where cultural leaders and higher education leaders come together through an event that promotes community engagement. George would like to have the event take place this upcoming January or February. This could provide an opportunity for various organizations to showcase themselves. Alison Noyes will work with George to facilitate this event. Board was asked to submit names of contacts that might prove beneficial to invite.

Finance: (presented by Marcy Conner)

Finance committee has not met yet. The first meeting is scheduled for October where Moriarty and Primack will present the results of their annual audit.

Governance: (presented by James Barnhill)

- Election of Jorge Rodriguez as new faculty representative

Motion was made and approved by consensus to elect Jorge Rodriguez as the new faculty representative to the Board. (10 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions)

- Update on Bylaws Revision

DESE has responded to the Bylaw Revisions that were submitted last year with feedback. Jim is working on those amendments and hopes to have the documentation to the Board to vote on by the next meeting.

- Proposal for establishing an annual award to honor outstanding service to PVPA

Jim presented a proposal to create an award acknowledging persons who have significantly contributed to the school in some material way. Recipients would be individuals who are not regularly employed by the school. The award would be granted annually, assuming an appropriate recipient could be identified. This recipient would be selected by a committee determined by the President of the Board.

A motion to establish this award, under the parameters indicated, was made and approved by consensus (10 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions). Board President will appoint a committee at a future date.

- Proposal for updating Staff Handbook

Gary proposed to form a committee of staff who would be charged with reviewing the Handbook for the purpose of presenting sections to the Board that they would like to revisit for potential revision. It was decided that Gary would furnish information to Governance for their initial review.

Head of School: (presented by George Simpson)

George was pleased with the opening of the new school year. Add/Drop period went well. George will be shadowing students to obtain a better understanding of the day to day dealings within the classroom. MCAS scores are due to come out October 17, 2017. DESE site visit is scheduled for November 9, 2017. The first Town Hall meeting is slated to occur on October 21, 2017. George has also been hosting coffee hours with parents and alumni to obtain feedback and answer questions.

George passed out his leadership goals for this school year which he stated is aligned with the Strategic Action Plan. The goals will be submitted to the Head of School Evaluation Committee to assist them in setting up parameters in reviewing his goals and setting benchmarks.

Students: (presented by Noah Hornick)

Beginning of school has gone well. Some students are frustrated as WiFi is no longer available to students for their phones. Noah also indicated that the school signage is in disarray and students would like to see the issue addressed. George stated that both items are actively being addressed.

Staff: (presented by Gary Huggett)

Staff are preparing for Open House and Community Day. The school year is off to a good start.

Open Session:

None

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made and approved by consensus at 7:30pm. (10 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions)

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel D. Dionne, Board Secretary