



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees

August 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Danal Abrams at 5:15 and a quorum was found present.

Board Members Present

Laura Blankfein, Mathias Ederer, Adam Falkner, Randall Iserman

Joining via Facetime

Danal Abrams

Absent

Jim Chu, Ben Gliklich, Jose de Jesus

Also present

Jamie Davidson, Geoffrey Klorpes

- Chair opened meeting
- Request for approval of June meeting minutes
 - Minutes approved by unanimous vote
- Updates from the school leadership
 - Principal reports enrollment to be on track
 - Sixth grade – Goal to enroll 82, slightly over final target of 78 to allow for last-minute changes. 68 accepted, 12 offers (not yet enrolled), 42 waitlisted
 - Seventh grade – 93 returning (loss of 6). 88 students waitlisted
 - Late summer resignation of 6th grade math teacher changed plans for staffing. One teacher interviewed for math, but hired for humanities shifted to math position. New candidate for humanities position already identified.
 - Geoffrey updated board on major increases in music and arts programming
 - Addition of full-time choir teacher
 - Seven new disciplines taught by part-time teachers (known or referred by current staff) – percussion, dance, woodwinds, violin, theater, visual arts, jewelry
 - Incorporation of set period (1:30 to 2:30) for arts, performing arts
 - Results on state ELA and Math exams were lower than expected. Students were strongest in ELA on big picture and vocabulary, weaker on deep reading and detail at the sentence level. Measurement and data analysis were difficult for students in Math while they were stronger in geometry.
 - Points up limitations to ANet as predictor. Students were 20% ahead of comparable group in ELA in internal assessment (up from 12% in Sep). Students also improved 14 percentage points over the year understanding informational texts. But ANet cannot track state data or assess writing skills. Students also



- saw gains in Math in ANet
 - School leadership reviewing curriculum alignment and instructional coaching to ensure better exam results in 2018. Considering closer study of range of schools in ANet cohort. Board asked if leadership has a “north star” or school whose current performance could serve as a goal and guide. Leadership also reviewing students’ gains from their starting point in Sep.
 - Getting response from CSE and updates on evaluation of certain specific SPED students continues to be a challenge. Work still needed to support family of student who needs more restrictive environment.
 - Board reviewed new attendance policy intended to address some chronic absenteeism and tardiness among a small percentage of students. Board recommended some modifications to make policy more robust and reduce the number of days “allowed” before disciplinary steps taken.
 - Principal updated board about encouraging signs of LH interest in joining board. Discussion about her role and specifically the need for additional development expertise on the board followed. Principal to invite LH to upcoming board meeting for general introductions.
 - New space at PS 111 will suit school at its present size. Brief review of floor plan and schedule of painting, clean-up presented.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:20