

NOCCS Board Minutes

October 21, 2015

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of North Oakland Community Charter School was held on **October 21, 2015 at 6:00 pm** at the School. The meeting was called to order at **6:00 pm**.

The following members of the Board were present:

Stephen Ajani, Leslie Bell, Mia Birdsong, Stephen Fox, Teresha Freckleton-Petite, Juliana Germak, Ann Gordon, Sahra Halpern, Tracy Hanna, Kristen McClusky, Luis Rodriguez, Rachel Vyda-Venning, Lakisha Young

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Minutes

The September minutes were not sent out as a pre-read so they will be voted on at the November meeting.

Common Enrollment Plan

Steven moved to move the Common Enrollment Plan presentation ahead of his presentation on the agenda. Luis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ann Soto from the non-profit Educate 78 presented information on their collaborative work with OUSD to design a Common Enrollment Plan. This has been done in other cities, and the goal is to implement a common enrollment process for all schools including charter schools to help create equity and transparency in the school application process. The NOCCS Board will need to decide whether to participate in this system by February or March of 2016. Ann responded to questions from the Board:

- This would not cost NOCCS anything as the cost would be required to be taken out of the currently state mandated fee that charter schools pay to their districts (1% of their budgets)
- To backfill open spots, schools would call the CEP office and let them know about an opening and the office would direct families to all the available openings for children in that grade.
- Charter schools would have the option to opt in annually so if it's not working well, they can go back to their lottery process.
- The CEP would use NOCCS' criteria to designate students to NOCCS.
- Better data will be available on school demand which can help with funding.
- There would be shared governance of the system and charter schools would be represented. Ann recommended that NOCCS use this as an opportunity to negotiate with OUSD about other needs of interest from the district.

Head of School Update

Having read Steve's report in advance, the Board asked specific questions about various items.

- Parent response to the RTI program has been mostly quiet. One issue raised by a parent was resolved with the parent saying they appreciated the issue being addressed quickly by phone.
- Parents looking at open seats in the 6th and 2nd grades did not accept offers because they had concerns about classroom management. Steve is working with these teachers and all teachers on enhancing classroom management skills.
- At the teacher check in, teachers felt supported, said the teacher interns were helpful and that there was engagement from administration and that they are feeling heard. Deltas included personal reflections about performance and these will be pursued in more detail.
- The challenge with getting internet access is a result of a change in internet providers, a need to reconfigure servers and renew a service contract for those servers. A barrier is that our IT person works only 2 days a week, limiting the speed of follow up.
- School culture - classroom management,
- There are approximately 26 kids with IEPs.
- Steve has been working with students and families regarding student behavior in the middle school.

Finance Updates

The Finance Committee reviewed past finance policies which were last reviewed in 2005. Over the next two months they will be working to draft a comprehensive set of new policies that have a new set of controls and tighter fiscal policies and procedures. A proposal will be brought to the Board for review.

NOCCS will be receiving \$20K from a state teacher effectiveness grant. The Board asked Steve to draft a proposal for how to spend it for Board to review at the November meeting so that it can be submitted to OUSD for disbursement by the end of the year.

A 50K error by Ed Tech has been fixed and NOCCS will end the year with less cash than expected, but still in the black.

Annual Fundraising

Annual Campaign

Kristen McCluskey and Ted Obbard are co-chairs of annual fund. To capitalize on Giving Tuesday (12/1/15), the campaign kickoff will align with that date. Kristen asked the Board to please submit their donations prior to then so that we can start off the campaign with 100% Board participation.

Capital Campaign

Steve Fox discussed bringing the Capital Campaign to a close and proposed a plan for final disbursement of the money raised: 40% on infrastructure; and 60% on program needs. The Board supports this proposal and thinks it gives enough direction for Steve to manage the expenditures.

This discussion raised issues about having a designated person responsible for creating an ongoing prioritized list of building repairs/needs. Kristen volunteered to be a Board representative on the Facilities Committee.

Mia also shared that she has been exploring ways to invest in real estate that would include units that could be offered to staff as a potential benefit to offset the high cost of living in Oakland.

Committee Updates

There were no questions about Board committee updates that were emailed to the Board as pre-reads..

Closed Session

The Board discussed an issue of potential litigation related to the staff handbook.

Adjourn

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Gordon, Secretary