

## **NOCCS Board Minutes April 20, 2016**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of North Oakland Community Charter School was held on April 20, 2016 at 6 pm at the School. The meeting was called to order at 6 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, Mariah Landers, Luis Rodriguez, Rachel Vyda-Venning,

Guests: David Bond, Cyril Anyaoha, Ross Evans, Kelly Hoppe

### **Public Comment**

#### **Teressa Freckleton-Petite**

Teressa gave a public comment saying she adores NOCCS because of its dedication to diversity and inclusiveness. She recommends that the school recognize more holidays such as Chinese New Year, Women's History month, Muslim and Jewish holidays. The walls/bulletin boards could be rotated more often to feature everyone.

### **Minutes**

Leslie moved to approve the March 16 2016 minutes; Juliana seconded the motion. There were 8 votes in favor, 3 abstentions, and zero no votes.

### **Development Committee Update**

David Bond gave an update on fundraising. The auction earned \$30K, which was above the goal. The FTO runs the walkathon and parents' nights out. The FTO will be joining Development committee by sending a representative. David wants to start a conversation to FTO members in to increase awareness about issues the school is facing. For example, Omar didn't know about the SB 740 funding issue. David says it's important to strengthen the linkage between the Board and the FTO. David doesn't recommend any changes to the fundraising strategy for the current events run (walkathon, auction, annual fund). However, it would be helpful to have common language between the Board and FTO about why we fundraise and what the funds go to and that it's based on the input of the community. .

### **Prop 39 Grant for Solar Panels**

The Board discussed proposals for replacing the the solar panels on the roof. There are restricted Proposition 39 Grant funds specifically allocated for this purpose. The Board voted to approve a proposal from Sun Light and Power for \$20K. Luis Rodriguez moved to approve the proposal; Sahra Halpern seconded the motion. The proposal was approved by a unanimous vote.

### **Staff Appreciation**

For staff appreciation, the Board will sponsor bringing a coffee van to school on May 4. Kristen McCluskey is coordinating this event. Ann Gordon will let the FTO know that it is happening so they can incorporate it into the events for Staff Appreciation week.

### **Staff Time Off Policy**

An update on this issue was tabled due to Lakisha's absence. The current liability is estimated at \$31K. It was recommended that an attorney be consulted to review and compare the acknowledgement letters and staff handbook differences.

### **Head of School Update**

Mr. Ajani presented student achievement results and the Board discussed how much to prioritize standardized testing.

### **Board Staff Meeting**

Mariah Landers shared some of the feedback from the staff at the meeting that Board members attended. It was facilitated in a "world cafe format" and three questions were asked: overall feeling about climate at NOCCS, NOCCS pillars most followed and what would you change about NOCCS if you could?

Themes within the discussion included:

- The RTI program is in its infancy; teachers are torn about its effectiveness
- There is lack of consistency in how discipline is applied
- Teaching & learning alignment and outcomes - high inconsistency
- Teachers would like a stronger development pipeline
- Teachers would like the opportunity to travel to conferences for professional development
- Communication with the Head of School feels great; there is confusion about the administrative roles
- Middle school students are not happy
- TFU is not happening consistently
- There is a need for high expectations

### **Finance Update**

Kelly Hoppe from Ed Tech presented the finance summary. The forecast for total operating expenses is down from last month by \$142K. This is primarily due to the SB 740 funding issue. However, the current draft 3 year budget shows concerns as revenue is increasing more slowly than expenses which over three years will have a significant impact on the school's ability to operate as is.

The Board asked the Finance committee to bring a break even budget incorporating the governor's revise for approval at the June meeting and to look at fixed and non-fixed costs. The

Board's ideal PED reserve would be \$250K. The Board will schedule its first meeting in August as a retreat to allow for a more in depth discussion about long term sustainability.

An initial brainstorm of ideas to solve the issue included: allowing teacher to enroll in a different retirement system; increasing class size, eliminating the middle school, adding a transitional kindergarten program, looking for available grants to offset fundraising for other things.

### **Committee Updates**

There were no additional committee update apart from those in the pre-reads sent by Mia Birdsong.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Gordon, Secretary