

YWCP Board of Trustees Meeting

Date: Friday November 5, 2021
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Zoom, In person



Minutes

- I. **Call to Order: Jennifer Allen, Chair**
- II. **Roll Call: Belimar Velazquez, Secretary**
 - a. **Attendees:** Jennifer Allen, Belimar Velazquez, Melissa Geska, Erin Duffy-Kruss, Chuck Falcon, Julia Green, Kristin Lowe, LaQuanna Sparkman, Jennifer Weinstein
 - b. **School/Staff Reps:** Barb Zelazny, Roberta McGinnis, Ocean Brown(Student rep), Nicole SinclairLauri Bonnell (YWCP Foundation), Maria Cruz (parent), Anna Hall (CEO NE Charters), Ashara Baker (NE Charters)
- III. **Communications to the Board: Parent Letter Response**
 - a. Letter requests additional engagement from parents. Board is conducting a survey to get feedback on how best to engage parents. The feedback will be used to establish a framework for engagement and ensure all voices are heard.
- IV. **Public speakers: None**
- V. **Approval of the October 7, 2021 Minutes: Jennifer Allen**
 - a. Motion: Jennifer Allen
 - b. Second: Belimar Velazquez
 - c. No discussion
 - d. All in favor
 - e. Abstain: Julia Green
- VI. **Executive Report: Jennifer Allen**
 - a. Resolution #3: Form has not been received. Therefore, vote postponed
 - b. The entire BoT participated in the NYSED meeting. Thank you.
 - c. Thank you to the board members for participating in the award ceremony. Please participate in the breakfast.
 - d. Anna Hall led the updates on the Transportation shift. RCSD has a proposal to not transport students outside of the district. This will affect YWCP students. The board chair has sent a letter to the commissioners requesting that the proposal is rejected. Will need BoT and parents to engage in raising their voices against this proposal.
 - e. District has received feedback that the managed choice program is expensive from a transportation perspective but also impacts an even distribution of education quality.
 - f. Also, there is a driver shortage.
 - g. Zone reconfiguration task force is trying to address issues with the Managed Choice Program. In October the task force presented its recommendation. There are 7 of them. The 8th recommendation is addressing transportation for 3500 students in the charter school, private, and urban suburban population.
 - h. Four meetings have taken place with private school leaders. Stakeholders are supportive of objecting to the 8th recommendation. Families and high school students, current and past, have been encouraged to write letters and share their views in public comment

- i. This is under their legal right to do under state law. There is a chance that this could be litigated but it is expensive. The goal is to stop the proposal from going forward.
- j. SED is hoping to not get involved.
- k. Charters have not made their voices loud enough so that RCSD leadership takes that into consideration. Stakeholders need to get involved to make their voices heard.
- l. Question from parent: will this prevent parents from choosing the school for their children? The vote will happen in January on the 8 recommendations. Parents and other stakeholders have the choice to react to all of them. Implementation is complex and could take time; a transition period may be needed. It is YWCP's decision on what to do if the transportation proposal is accepted. For example, YWCP could choose to close.
- m. Question: how does this impact funding? 90% of transportation costs are subsidized by NYS. Technically, districts do not have to provide transportation. The requirement is to bus students within 1.5 miles of the school. Some of this transportation is not subsidized and therefore, it is a district expense.
- n. On November 18 there is an opportunity for public comment. Up to 20 people can speak in person. People can also speak via zoom. To facilitate social distancing public attendance will be limited to 20 persons, on a first come first serve basis until capacity is reached. Those wishing to attend in person must check in for screening with security at the front desk. Anyone wishing to sign-up to speak in-person or via Zoom must send an email to Boardofeducation@rcsdk12.org by noon on the day of the meeting and state that they would like to speak. The following information must be included: Name, Telephone Number, Affiliation and the Topic on which they wish to speak. Prior to the meeting, an email will be sent to those persons with a Zoom link to participate.
- o. In advance of November 18, the school has engaged parents who want to speak. In addition, many letters have been written.
- p. Ashara can help guide the engagement for November 18. People that intend to speak should sign up to provide comments by sending the clerk their intent the night of November 17 or by 8 AM November 18.
- q. If the RCSD board is still considering this for the January agenda, then additional activities such as protests may be necessary.
- r. If alumni want to write an opinion piece, Ashara and Anna are happy to assist in writing and approaching reporters to get it placed.

VII. Governance Committee: *Julia Green*

- a. Recommendations from the committee:
 - i. Prioritize delivery of DASA training for faculty and staff
 - ii. Sub-recommendation: Ask YWCP legal counsel to provide/prepare list of required annual faculty, staff, and/or student training for Board review and better understanding
 - iii. Sub-recommendation: Request access to existing School dashboard or tracking mechanism to ensure proper Board monitoring of completion of annual training requirements (if not available, we will request that the School create this resource)
 - iv. Set up regular professional development opportunities for Board of Trustee members
- b. Engage in a process to ensure Board members have a more solid and consistent understanding of the School's plan for monitoring/ensuring appropriate student progress in the absence of state standardized tests Increasing opportunities for parent engagement at different levels.

VIII. Principal's Report: *Barbara Zelazny, Principal (and Nicole Sinclair)*

- a. School culture: High level of misbehavior including fighting. Suspension numbers have gone up. However, things are starting to change. Children are normalizing. School is working on socializing students using the BASE model and the different tactics that are part of the model.
- b. Safety is #1 concern. A 2nd security guard has been hired for 4 days a week. Teachers that have taken additional responsibility
- c. Learning loss and divide is bigger this year but making progress.
- d. The NYSED renewal site visit went well. Evaluators were pleased with the evidence of the practice. Teachers and students were well prepared. Praised for consistency. Evaluators were able to witness what the school does on a daily basis including DEI support of the students. Met with special population groups. Asked questions about how staff are supported. Both liaisons said this is their favorite charter school. Parents were also engaged. YWCP speaks honestly about data and challenges.
- e. Principal will attend RCSD board meetings in person.
- f. Please send letters.
- g. Please attend breakfast.

IX. Student Report: *Student Rep. Ocean Brown*

- a. Making a lot of progress. The Pep Rally helped to build teamwork skills. Awards were given to students for making activities fun.

X. Education Committee: *L. Sparkman*

- a. Committee gave time to the Principal to prepare for site visit.

XI. Development Report: *Jennifer Weinstein, Chair*

- a. Marketing assets including instructions have been shared with BoT. Please post on social media to engage more people. People can use links to buy tickets, tables or donate. People will also have the opportunity to donate during and after the event.
- b. Great in person event with the honorees.
- c. Numbers: good with sponsorships but table sales are slower. Opportunity to showcase YWCP and expand the network. Relationships start with breakfast.
- d. Email blasts have gone out inviting people to attend breakfast.
- e. Six board members have signed up for the breakfast.
- f. Just Giving campaign not being done this year. Most people didn't take advantage of that last year.

XII. Finance Committee: *Chuck Falcon, Chair*

- a. Financial reports available in Google drive
- b.** Committee met to discuss investments in improving the facility. For example, a bathroom in the nurse's office. Decision has been put on hold until the busing situation is resolved.
- c.** Principal: keep momentum going because space is of concern. Changes take time and therefore, need to keep this in mind.

XIII. School Operations: *Roberta McInnis, Director of Operations*

- a. Staff is undergoing sexual harassment training. 75% completion to date.
- b. Form 990 has been received as of Wednesday, November 3. Roberta is reviewing and will be presented to the board at the next meeting.
- c. The filing date is November 15 but Bonadio filed for a 5-month extension which will not be required.
- d. From the second grant of \$600K, a payment of \$135K has been received. Expensed \$200K so far.

- e. Final grant is under review but no issues expected. \$87K has been expensed. An initial payment of \$300K is expected which is 20% of grant
- f. Expenditures are reflected on the P&L divided by class in the system but reported overall in the financial

XIV. Adjourn to Executive Session:

a.

XV. Adjournment:

a. Motion: Jennifer

b. Second: Kristin

XVI. Next Meeting: [December 3, 2021 \(Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m\)](#)