



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 16, 2023

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Members Present

Susan Adams
James Taylor
Chris Ceshnik
Josh Bowling
Susan Vogt
Tracy Guerrero
Ranisha Martin
Valerie Davis
Michael Bowling
Breanca Merritt
Mariana Lopez-Owens
Ashley Acuff

Members Absent

Beth Uselmann
Marie Mackintosh
Shayna Sangster

Staff Present

Ross Pippin
Dana Larson
Anuja Petruniw
Brandon House
Melissa Rowe

Guests

Brian Anderson
Brian Dickey

Dr. Susan Adams called the May 16, 2023 Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:36PM.

Dr. Adams proposed the approval of the March 23, 2023 minutes. Ms. Susan Vogt made the motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Ashley Acuff seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Finance:

Mr. Brian Anderson gave an overview of the budget indicating we are in a strong position. He explained we are following our revised budget. He indicated the operational expenses fund was in a good position. We are now focused on planning for next year, particularly considering the additional school.

Ms. Vogt proposed a \$10,000 donation to Englewood Community Development Corporation to support the development of their community room. Mr. Mike Bowling shared about the neighborhood's generosity towards the project. Mr. James Taylor shared how other community organizations are donating to this effort that will provide the largest meeting space on the Near Eastside. Mr. James Taylor seconded the motion. Motion was approved. There were three abstentions, Dr. Adams, Mr. Josh Bowling and Mr. M. Bowling.

Academic Update

Mrs. Dana Larson gave an overview of the assessment progress. We have wrapped up ILEARN for grades 3-6. Next week we will coordinate the IREAD retest. Students are currently taking their end of year NWEA tests. We will have updated results for IREAD retakes, ILEARN, and NWEA at our next board meeting.

Operations

Mrs. Anuja Petruniw gave an enrollment summary as of May 15, 2023. We are currently at 572 students. This is down ten students since our board meeting in March.

Ms. Petruniw gave an update on the personnel report. She highlighted the staff that have been hired in anticipation of WINS staff for next year. Attention was given to the retirement/transfer sections. We continue to work to fill vacant positions at both TGNS and WINS. Mrs. Petruniw indicated that IPS and NEISC are offering some hard to fill position pay in an effort to attract staff for particularly difficult to fill positions. NEISC currently has 81% of positions filled.

Mrs. Petruniw gave a family and partner engagement update. She mentioned the ongoing items and indicated the addition of the Spring Parent University. She highlighted the annual Bulldog Bash that was well-attended – approximately 525 visitors. We had a fabulous Teacher Appreciation Week of events. Mrs. Petruniw gave thanks to the Board for their contributions to the week. We are looking forward to our end of the year celebrations with students.

Mr. Ross Pippin gave an update on Washington Irving Neighborhood School. There will be a block party on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 11am-2pm. We have personally invited all current families at School 14. We received very positive feedback from these phone calls that the majority of families plan to stay at Washington Irving Neighborhood School.

Board Governance

Mr. Pippin highlighted changes to the board governance. The first change is related to consecutive terms of the director—changing from two to three terms. The second change is for successive roles to change from four to five successive terms. The additional changes were to our standing and governance committees. Mr. James Taylor suggested adding verbiage to indicate the committees or board may meet more frequently, but must meet at least bi-monthly. Mr. Bowling suggested adding verbiage that requires the board to review any decisions the Executive Committee makes. Dr. Adams gave the history behind the previous bylaws and the rationale for suggested changes. Ms. Valerie Davis made a motion to approve the bylaw changes. Ms. Vogt seconded the motion. The motion is approved.

Mr. Pippin gave an update on the board positions. Breanca Merritt is stepping down from the board. Mr. Taylor indicated his desire to continue serving the board. Dr. Adams and Mr. M. Bowling invited the board to consider their ongoing service. Ms. Vogt highlighted the importance of having consistency as we transition to operating two schools. Ms. Merritt made the motion to approve the slate. Ms. Mariana Lopez-Owens moved to approve the board members. Mrs. Chris Cesnik seconded the extension of terms. Three members abstained, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Adams and Mr. M. Bowling.

Resource Development

Mr. Pippin shared that The Mind Trust has awarded us a \$400,000 grant to support our efforts at Washington Irving Neighborhood School.

Board Committees

No Update

Closing Items:

Dr. Adams moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:34.

Dr. Susan Adams, Board Chair

Recorded by Melissa Rowe