

Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
March 15, 2018; 4:30 p.m.

Present: Joan Coulter, Jennifer Fallon, Cathy Glaser, Jim Schnieders, Joseph Caverly, Jennifer Oliver-Goodwin, Troylynn Washington, Mary Zervigon

Absent: Deborah Anderson, Sybil Morial, Deborah Love, Michelle Sanchez

Staff: Chana Benenson, Sarah Grainer

Foundation: Julie Bourgeois, Sarah Martzolf

Guests: Christina Hull, Rosemary Szilagi, Eboni Brown, Robert Morris (Uptown Messenger), Charlie Crosby (OPSB)

Notice of the meeting was posted at the school in accordance with the open meetings law. The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education was called to order by the chair, Mary Zervigon, on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 4:30 pm.

The February 2018 Advocates Board meeting minutes were not available and will be reviewed next month with the March 2018 meeting minutes. Mary brought motion to amend the agenda to include report from the Foundation. No objections.

Financial Report: (Jim)

· Waiting to hear on funding for this year from OPSB. Still showing shortfall because we don't know what our funding is. There is no estimate.

· Balance Sheet – As of 2/28/18, Cash balance is \$976,040, a decrease in net assets by \$289,765 since July 1st (this is typical for the start of a school year).

· Accounts Receivable – As of 2/28/18, Sci High had \$208,080 in Account Receivables; 94% older than 91 days. We received about \$136,144 from the Foundation in March as well as payment on Perkins in the amount of \$29,725. Also, the state distributed a reallocation of federal funding and Sci High received an additional \$66,574 in Federal funding.

· Budget vs. Actuals – Spending continues to outpace billing through February 2018 with 61% of budgeted expenses incurred with invoicing at 56%.

· Financial Dashboard – Register balance at the end of February 2018 was \$976,040. Book cash balance as of 3/13/18, which includes current AR and AP, is \$1,025,447 representing approx. 2.2 months of cash on hand.

The Finance Report was received by the Board.

Report from the Foundation (Julie Bourgeois, Sarah Martzolf)

Julie reviewed Fundraising report. Total giving restricted to Sci High programming so far is \$140,255 and goal for 17-18 school year is \$205,000. Gap is \$82,745. If we get all proposals submitted, gap will only be \$14,745.

Next steps to close the gap include proposals to 2 national funders; advocacy on the board level with Booth Bricker Foundation. Joan suggests reaching out to foundations willing to fund operations to organizations like ours demonstrating continued success.

Sarah reviewed some of the current fundraising activities, specifically the capitol campaign and the Sci High 25th Anniversary Celebration. Fundraising goal for the event is \$35,000. Sarah shared agenda for the event, including student participants and teacher honoree Melanie Boulet. Guests include sponsors, alumni, teachers. Julie requested that Advocates members attend the gala and invite others who may potentially be interested in giving to Sci High/the Foundation.

The Foundation Report was received by the Board.

School Director's Report: (Chana)

- **Monthly Focus: Exceptional Children's Services Coordinator, Rosemary Szilagi:** Rosemary shared about the ECS department. ECS department has grown to 13 staff members in the past couple years, making it Sci High's largest faculty department. ECS vision is for all ECS students to graduate with a diploma. Approximately 129 students currently receive support from the ECS department. Funding for ECS changes based on OPSB allocations, which are partially based on number of students currently receiving ECS services.
- **Enrollment:** 463 total students at Sci High currently. There is a strategic plan in place for the school to gradually grow as we get closer to the new building.
- **Recent accomplishments:** Sci High was successful at GNO Science Fair, with 18 entrants, 5 Sci High student winners, 2 will advance to state, 1 student won 1st place and will advance to the International Science Fair. Early college acceptances rolling in, including 2 seniors receiving full ride scholarships to Tulane. Graduation rate has been steadily growing. 1/3 fewer of our seniors are in danger of not graduating compared to class of 2017 at this time.
- **NSNO Math Content Deep Dive School Review:** Chana reviewed data found by NSNO analysis of math team at Sci High.
- **NSNO/Bellwether Readiness to Grow Study:** National education consultants are observing at Sci High and interviewing students and staff to analyze the school's financial, enrollment, educational programming and overall health to assess "readiness to grow" as we continue building.
- **Orleans Parish Education Network:** Sci High won 2018 Absolute Achievement Award for High School from OPEN awards.
- **Teacher Awards and Recognitions:** Chana reviewed recent awards won by Sci High teachers (listed in Principal's Report).
- **School Events:** Chana reviewed recent and upcoming events at the school.
- **New Building PowerPoint and Flythrough:** Chana reviewed map of the new school site and current layouts for the inside of the building and played the virtual flythrough of the building.

The School Director Report was received by the Board.

Report of the Chair (Mary Zervigon)

Mary had no report.

Committee Reports

· Search (Jennifer Fallon)

Faculty and staff have elected representatives to serve on a panel for the semi-finalist interviews. Search is on track for semi-finalist interviews to conclude April 5. Finalists will visit April 11-19. Jennifer and Sarah Grainer will plan the visits for finalists. Visits will include a time slot for the Advocates board as a whole and a time slot for the Search Committee specifically.

· Governance (Jennifer Fallon)

Jennifer presented a nomination for a new board member to replace Michael Wood. Nomination is Liz Landry, who works in HR at Entergy. Landry has both corporate and nonprofit experience. Mary calls the motion and asks for the second. Joan seconds. Joseph seconds. Mary asks all in favor. Board responds, "I." No objections.

Other Business:

· TRSL (Mary Zervigon)

Letter to state officials is finalized. We do not have a time estimate for how long it will take for the attorney general to respond.

With no other business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Grainer, Communications Manager for Sci High