

Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
April 26, 2018; 4:30 p.m.

Present: Joan Coulter, Jennifer Fallon, Cathy Glaser, Jennifer Oliver-Goodwin, Michelle Sanchez, Jim Schnieders, Mary Zervigon, Deborah Anderson, Joe Caverly

Absent: Deborah Love, Sybil Morial, Joe Daschbach, Troylynn Washington

Staff: Chana Benenson, Claudia Kent, Lillian Welsh, Greg Wilson, Rhonda Smith, Irian Honore, Sarah Grainer, Mackenzie Hereford, Dominique Lucien, Kyla Muse, Raphael Dexter, Nicole Sykes-Rener, Nathan Vernon, Charles Whitaker, Melanie Boulet

Foundation: Bob Sternhell

Notice of the meeting was posted at the school and the agenda was posted on the school website 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, April 26, 2018 at 4:28 pm.

The February 2018 Advocates Board meeting minutes were accepted as circulated

The March 2018 Advocates Board meeting minutes were accepted as circulated

Financial Report: (Claudia)

- Proposed Budget Calendar: targeted week of June 15 for review, July 9 preliminary FY19 Budget available in Sci High office. July 19 public hearing at 4:30 to submit review for final adoption.
- Balance Sheet – As of 3/31/18 cash balance was \$1.1million. Total net assets decreased by \$211K since July of last year. Current ratio down to 5.08, liquidity down to 6.03.
- Accounts Receivable – As of 3/31/18 there was \$190K in accounts receivable with 16% accounts payable 91 days or over. Claudia also waits for payment from Youthforce which will not pay until Fall '18, during the next fiscal year. She continues to work with the Foundation to reconcile some invoices. Balance on IDEA and Title II going to have to be written off. OPSB lost rollover funding, we're billing for this year's but writing off last year's.
- Budget vs. Actuals – 65% of revenue either collected or billed, 69% obligated which is why there is a -\$211K on balance sheet. A little better than compared to last year. Update to report: information from OPSB regarding MFP and local funding, which has decreased from last year and from what was expected. Variance is significant enough that the state funding at this point is not certain and will need to be revisited. Student enrollment in higher tiers has increased significantly, decreasing the base and results in a hit of \$120,000 for Sci High. Leveling efforts for differentiated funding has increased by \$100 per student with an overall effect for Sci high of a variance of negative \$180,000. Mitigated to \$84,000. Mary inquired about membership to GNO Collaborative of Charter Schools- decision will be made at next meeting. Register balance \$1.1million.
- Finance Dashboard: Two and a quarter months of cash in the bank. Spending will outweigh billing; difference attributable to incoming state funds. Income forecast at \$372K, expenses forecast to be \$441K.

The Finance Report was received by the Board.

School Director's Report: (Chana)

- **Enrollment:** OneApp doesn't generally make transfers this time of year, but students have moved. Target for next year 500. Jennifer Fallon asked about possible causes for drop in enrollment in 11th grade over the last two months. Chana: there has been more citywide movement (in and out) in OneApp than in previous years. Cut-off was made earlier this year for incoming students so as not to interfere with testing.
- **Recent & Upcoming Events:**
 - 4/9 Active Shooter Training, collaboration of NOPD and NOPS. Sci High sent team to citywide simulation
 - 4/16-4/19 Spring Fest and Spirit Week
 - 4/20 Professional Development Day
 - 4/21 Prom
 - 4/23-4/25 Senior Launch
 - 4/25 Talent Show
 - Field Trips: Operation Spark/Collision Tech Conference, Port of New Orleans/job fair, JazzFest/lifeskills class, NOLA for Women Conference/Black Girls Magic Club, ACE presentations currently happening
- **Monthly Focus** – to dive in to at the next month's meeting
 - Standardized Testing
 - STEM focus: Science Fair, new approach to math
 - Feedback from NSNO, School Leadership Center to be shared at the next meeting

Report from the Foundation (Bob Sternhell)

Gala raised upwards of \$50,000. Foundation simultaneously engaged in fundraising for new school building that will match \$3million from the state for a total of \$4million. Starting new STEM committee, led by teachers, for requests for costly expenditures. Regular fundraising initiative goal will be \$400,000 in programmatic spending and less than \$200,000 for board operations (director and support personnel). Trying to maximize transfer of operations to programs within the school through billing and refurbishing.

Public Comments:

Greg Wilson, Enrichment Coordinator: we had internal candidates that were highly qualified, faculty forum was negative after Mr Gallagher's visitation days. Dr Cola is "suitable," could do it, but never ran a high school or worked at a high school. Thought that there would have been a better pool if it had included people with actual leadership experience and administrative experience. With this, on top of the process of moving out of TRSL, the board has failed us.

Board moved in to Executive Session at 4:54pm
Open session resumed at 5:34pm

Principal Selection:

Mary: search committee, chairman, and two consultants turned up deep pool of candidates. Jennifer Oliver-Goodwin: fourteen candidates reviewed by committee to narrow number down to eight. Spent two days interviewing those candidates to evaluate their compatibility with school goals as well as job description. Three finalists, one candidate withdrew. After two visitation days with remaining candidates, committee considered faculty, board, and foundation feedback and checked references. Jennifer Fallon: the two finalists interacted with groups which were representative of all constituents. Two inversely qualified candidates. Committee dug deep in to work history of Mr Gallagher. Ran criminal background checks on both. Dr Cola embodies the mission of Sci High in her life/work history. Dr Cola needs some support in learning the requirements of the job, but I'll move that we consider Dr Cola. Jim seconded. Joe: Jennifer summarized it very well. There's a diversity of opinion on the faculty, on the board, but in the end Monique probably represents the better choice in our particular circumstance. Jennifer: if we select Monique, we recognize that it will be on us to ensure that she has resources and training. Boulet (Foundation Faculty Liaison and History Teacher): what would you have changed or are you going to evaluate the search process? It doesn't seem like the vetting around their commitment to Sci High was done thoroughly. Mary: it's not uncommon to have a candidate drop out. Jennifer Oliver-Goodwin: the third candidate dropped out as a result of not wanting references to be called. Mary: when you're a finalist, it gets real and it's not uncommon (for a candidate to drop out). Jennifer F: after much discussion, we decided to continue with the remaining candidates. The first thing I would undo is losing time by hiring Molly Mitchell. Mary: are we ready for the vote, then? Motion and second. Vote: All in favor

Other Business: Jennifer Fallon

Resumé of attorney at Phelps-Dunbar recommended as member of Advocates forwarded to board. Motion and second. All in favor.

With no other business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lillian Welsh