

Community Leaders Advocating Students Success (C.L.A.S.S.) ---d.b.a. Fannie C. Williams

Minutes of the Meeting held on December 19, 2024

Board members present: Mrs. Roubion, Dr. Love, Ms. Cager, Ms. Dupree, Mr. Edwards

Other guests: Mrs. Kelly Batiste (CEO), Mrs. Brenda Watson, Mrs. Gretchen Johnson

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mr. Edwards

Public comments regarding the agenda were called for by The Chair. Hearing none; a motion was called for by The Chair to adopt the agenda. The motion was made by Mrs. Roubion and seconded by Ms. Cager. All in favor, with no oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.

Next public comments were called for regarding the adoption of the minutes of the last board meeting. Hearing none, The Chair called for a motion to adopt the prior meeting's minutes. The motion was made by Mrs. Roubion and seconded by Dr. Love. All in favor, with no oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.

Next the CEO gave her report with the following being noted:

- Mrs. Batiste was pleased to announce that on 12/10/2024 the school board voted to renew the schools charter for 5 years and that she and the leadership team are excited to begin the work of review and revising our strategies as needed to plan for the next 5 year. Strategies that make sure we are hitting that we are hitting the incremental growth to prepare for the next renewal in 29-30. If nothing changes, test scores from 27-28 and 28-29 will be used to determine that renewal. We will stay abreast of the new accountability system to ensure that we are ready and work hard to continue to remain operable. Mrs. Batiste thanked the board members for their continued support.
- A discussion was had in reference to acquiring new board members. We are a very unique board and a suggestion was made to search our people pool for prospective candidates.
- Mrs. Batiste asked if there were any questions on the Charter renewal (hearing none), she informed them board that she would let them know what the new contract looks like and what their responsibility will look like.
- Enrollment update: funds are based on the number of kids and as of today, we have 452 and MFP is 491 which included Pre-K. Our ESL population continues to grow. We currently use TNOLA Languages via an iPad (Rosie) which is a live video conference that helps us to communicate with our families.
- Regarding staffing updates, we cannot accomplish any of our goals without people in front of our students. Good people are hard to find and we are continuously recruiting and trying to develop new people. If any board member is aware of anyone looking for a position, please reach out. We have 3 individuals retiring (Social Worker, Kdg. Para and Parent Engagement person-part-time position) and a 7/8 math teacher is needed. Our CIS site coordinator, which is a counselor, is interested in the social worker position, which is two different things, and we're trying to figure out what path to take with her. Should she come on, Dr. Love was asked if she would support her.

Intent to return surveys have been sent out to staff. We will have a better idea of our needs once the surveys are completed.

Next, Ms. Watson gave her Business Manager's report with the following being noted:

- Financial Statements as of November 30, 2024, were sent to the board via email for viewing, if any questions on line items, call the office to discuss.
- Mrs. Watson indicated that FCW is financially healthy and ESSER funds are going away. Staff positions were not put in ESSER therefore, we should be ok. Transportation will now be coming back to the general fund and that is approximately \$800,000 per year.

GNSO had a grant for a 5-year forecast for schools, and we will be good based on that 5 year forecast.

Enrollment is steadily increasing. We have 7 million in our account.

- The auditors are requesting that the board members start looking at our debit card purchases/transactions and ACH purchases that come thru the account. We don't have credit cards and they want additional views to know that they are being balanced.

The board was given a copy of July 1 through December 18, 2024 journal for review.

- Tax exempt is still being utilized.
- Audit is still in progress
- COVID money depleted as of 09/30/24 deadline. Everything was spent or ordered by the deadline.

Mr. Edward's asked if there were any projects on the horizon since the school is being renewed (i.e. an Annex building)

Mrs. Batiste explained that realistically, we would probably never go back to the number of students that we had in the beginning due to other schools opening in the area.

Mr. Edwards asked about in-house transportation-Mrs. Watson indicated that it was too costly and that it was cost effective to write a check.

- New Business-None

Mrs. Batiste then suggested to the board of the next meeting date of February 20, 2025, and that the time will change to 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. All agreed.

Public comments were called for by The Chair. Hearing none, The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Dupree made the motion seconded by Ms. Cager (6:57 p.m.). A vote was then called for and the motion carried unanimously.