



Board of Trustees Meeting

December 3rd, 2016
301 West Hunting Park Avenue - Library
Philadelphia PA 19140
5:30pm – 7:30pm

Board Members Present: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha, Denise Cruz, Rev. John Rice, Danilo Diaz and Brandon Fuller

Board Absent: Rev. Luis Cortes; Ex-Officio, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Nancy Negrón, Carmen Torres

Staff/Management Present: William Hopkins, David Solivan, Rebecca DiSalvo, Nathaniel Stringfield, Tania Diaz, Angela Smith, Yohana Giraldo, Benjamin Brous, Kenneth Medina, Alicia Mojica, Lori Walinsky, Tania Ramos-Oton, David Rossi, Ellen Espailat

Other: Withum Smith & Brown (2)

The meeting was called to order at 5:27pm meeting quorum with 6 members present.

I. Greetings

II. Minutes*

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to approve minutes from the October 29th meeting. Mrs. Rocha motioned. Mr. Fuller seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha, Denise Cruz, Rev. John Rice, Danilo Diaz and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

III. Audited Financial Statement*

The auditor from Withum Smith-Brown introduced section A of the financial report which is standard and required communication. He then stated that there were no audit adjustments, weaknesses or issues with internal control. There were no illegal acts or acts of fraud. There was also a complete A-133 audit which is completed as part of the report. The only adjustment to the report was the addition of the GASB68 due to the PSER's Pension Liability adjustments. Operationally the school did well and they have no findings to report.

The Board held an executive session with the auditors. Upon the reconvening of the board meeting, Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to approve the audited financial report. Mrs. Rocha motioned. Mr. Fuller seconded. The vote was as follows:



Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha, Denise Cruz, Rev. John Rice, Danilo Diaz and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Rev. Zepernick stated that Mrs. Negron was excused and would not be able to make the meeting.

IV. Disciplinary Subcommittee Resolutions

Mr. Diaz presented the recommendations as follows:

EAHS-4

Proposed Student Expulsion – DM

RESOLVED, that the student DM *will be expelled* for a period of thirty days. The student DM engaged in a fight with another student.

EAHS-3

Proposed Student Expulsion – TH

RESOLVED, that the student TH *will be expelled* for a period of thirty days. The student TH engaged in a fight with another student.

EAHS-2

Proposed Student Expulsion – IP

RESOLVED, that the student IP *will be expelled* for a period of thirty days. The student IP engaged in a fight with another student.

Mr. Diaz asked the board to vote for IP but to table DM until Instruction can verify some elements arose during her hearing.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion the recommendation of the disciplinary subcommittee to expel student IP for a period of 30 days. Mr. Diaz motioned. Mr. Fuller seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha, Denise Cruz, Rev. John Rice, Danilo Diaz and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion the recommendation of the disciplinary subcommittee to expel student TH for a period of 30 days. Mr. Diaz motioned. Rev. Rice seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha, Denise Cruz, Rev. John Rice, Danilo Diaz and Brandon Fuller - 6



Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Mr. Stringfield stated that the DM matter was cleared up. After consulting counsel, Rev. Zepernick decided to proceed with the expulsion of student DM.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion the recommendation of the disciplinary subcommittee to expel student DM for a period of 30 days. Mr. Diaz motioned. Mrs. Rocha seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha, Denise Cruz, Rev. John Rice, Danilo Diaz and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

V. Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Hopkins stated that the current assets are 1.9 Million. The current ratio is 0.67. Mr. Hopkins stated that the school is being reimbursed from the School District of Philadelphia on the enrollment from the beginning of the school year and the school should be seeing \$220,000 retroactively from July 1st. Mr. Hopkins spoke about the PSERS net pension liability which causes there to be a negative in total assets. Mr. Hopkins spoke about the expansion of the credit line in case there is a lapse in payment from the school district. Mr. Hopkins stated he was expecting a meeting with the COO of the School District of Philadelphia to discuss the disbursement of funds. The credit line should carry the school for 3-4 months post payments.

Mr. Rossi stated there is a deficit in income of \$347,000 of which the school will recover \$220,000 from the school district's reconciliation.

Mr. Rossi reviewed the budget projections. In the revenue projection, Mr. Rossi stated that he is currently in conversations with PSP about a grant that could cover the cost of NESSO. Mr. Rossi stated the school is forecasted to have revenue of \$10,000 higher than what was budgeted. In the expense projection, Mr. Rossi stated the school is forecasted to spend \$7,000 less than budgeted in the following categories; salary, benefits, and retirement. The net income projection is a deficit of \$367,000.

Mr. Rossi explained variances in budget by lines. The contracted copier costs are running \$17,000 over budget. The Special Education consultant line is projected to be \$21,000 over budget. The Special Education transportation is \$44,000 which is a cost from the previous year which was added after the fiscal year began. However the total Special Education costs are projected to be \$4,000 below budget. The Office of the Principal is \$13,000 over budget due to hiring a PIMS consultant to train staff on managing the PIMS system.

VI. MS Instruction Report



ESPERANZA ACADEMY

CHARTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Diaz stated that she held a professional development on November 3rd for teachers to review and analyze the first quarter exams. The middle school held Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 24th. Mrs. Diaz stated that all regular meetings continue to be held. She also stated that the eighth grade high school exploration was very successful. The Debate Team completed their first debate and took the 1st place prize. The next debate is scheduled for December 13th. The Student Government Association has been organizing and will be holding elections. There is a 7th grader who is performing for the PENN Ballet in the production of the Nutcracker. The journalism students were issued press passes to attend and report on the event.

VII. HS Instruction Report

Mrs. Smith stated that they had a professional development day on November 3rd for the staff to look at AP exam answers and compare those to answers from Esperanza students. Mrs. Smith stated they held an event called Day of the Student which was over the course of 2 half days and served as professional development for the students. Topics included coping mechanisms, college transition and healthy relationship amongst others. The teachers performed a self-evaluation, a survey on administration and have held department meetings. The PSAT is being administered to students in 9th-12th. Some of the events that the high school has held include the visit of author Nelson Denis, Parent-Teacher Conferences, all girls mentoring trip and National Honor Society inductions. Some points of pride are; the engineering students won 1st place in Widener University's Mousetrap Race Car Competition, the Dance Ensemble won 1st place in the high school division and overall participation at the Puerto Rican Day Parade, student Sarah Santiago won another essay contest on the topic of Race, Poverty and Change in America.

VIII. School Performance Profile Report

Mrs. Walinsky stated there was an increase in the percent of student s meeting the college readiness benchmark (ACT/SAT). Mrs. Walinsky stated there is an area of concern regarding a metric for the SPP score. The baseline year that is being used is 2013 and there are 10 point allotted for the school's ability to close the achievement gap. This year was the highest percentage of proficiency in both reading and math in the history of the school. The SPP judges the success of one cohort to that of another making it hard to show growth year after year. In Keystone math the school achieved 70% proficiency. The Board asked that a letter be drafted and sent to the PDE stating the metrics that are deemed to be unfair when calculating the school's score.

IX. Personnel Report*

Mr. Rossi presented the personnel report as follows:

New Hires- 2

1. Jose L. Rivera : PT School Climate Officer (6-12)
School District of Philadelphia, General Equivalency Diploma
2. Jazmine Marie Torres: Administrative Assistant to DOI (MS)



Community College of Philadelphia, A.A. in Early Childhood

Departures – 8

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Personnel Report. Mrs. Rocha motioned. Mr. Diaz seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha, Denise Cruz, Rev. John Rice, Danilo Diaz and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

X. Contract Approvals*

Mr. Medina presented the contract approvals as follows:

1. **MACCS Health Services:** Middle School – the administration is recommending the approval of the contract between MACCS Health Services and NEACS for the providing of student health services for the 2015-16 year, subject to legal review. MACCS has provided these services to our middle school since its inception, and the contract is essentially similar to the previous year. **Grand Total: \$70,871.82 for the 2015 - 2016 school year.**
2. **MACCS Health Services:** High School – the administration is recommending the approval of the contract between MACCS Health Services and NEACS for the providing of student health services for the 2015-16 year, subject to legal review. MACCS has provided these services to our high school since our inception, and the contract is essentially similar to the previous year. **Grand Total: \$76,916.82 for the 2015 - 2016 school year.**
3. **199 Hunting Park**– The administration is recommending the ratification of the financing NOTE payable to 199 Hunting Park to finance the Roof Top Unit purchased and installed by Devine Brothers, in the amount of \$63,167.58. This expense was discussed and approved at a prior Board meeting however the document must be approved by the Board.
4. **ALEMAR Consulting:** The administration is recommending the approval of the contract between ALEMAR Consulting and the Academy to provide ALEMAR consulting to provide E-Rate services at a fixed cost of \$6,750.00. In addition, secondary services in the following categories: Educational and Instructional Technology assessment, State Reporting (PIMS) and Student Information System (PowerSchool) support at a rate of \$175.00 not to exceed \$20,000 for the 2015-16 year. The **total cost** of this contract is **\$26,750.00**
5. **Sydelle Prosopio:** Independent Contractor, Long term Substitute Teacher, \$130.00 per Diem as needed. Master of Science in Early Childhood Education from Gwynedd Mercy University.



6. **American Capital:** Entered into a finance agreement with American Capital for the purchases of computers, software and other equipment. This agreement will be paid in 36 payments in the amount of \$3,217.65 over 12 months. Esperanza Academy has an existing agreement with American Capital. The **total cost** of the equipment is **\$108,273.44**.

Rev. Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Contract Approvals Report. Mrs. Cruz motioned. Mrs. Rocha seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha, Denise Cruz, Rev. John Rice, Danilo Diaz and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

XI. CEO Report

Mr. Rossi reported that Esperanza Inc. has been successful in submitting a new application for a Esperanza K-5 school. If approved, the school will open its doors in 2017-2018. There are a series of hearings beginning in January and a final decision should be made in February. Mr. Rossi also reported that PSP visited the school on October 27th. During their visit the observed both middle and high school classrooms. PSP was very impressed with what they saw.

XII. Discipline Report

The board asked if we can develop a way to track trends in suspensions. Some examples are increase in Special Education students or boys vs girls.

XIII. Miscellaneous

- Mr. Medina reported that the lottery dates were being delayed until a spike in applications for the 9th grade slots. The lottery would then be held sometime in January.
- Mr. Diaz explained about a Microsoft Initiative called Hour of Code where Microsoft employees reach out to youth and get them excited about technology through an interactive workshop with some of the latest technologies. He expressed his interest in doing this with the middle and high school.

XIV. Adjournment

A motion was called the end the meeting by Rev. Zepernick at 7:00pm. Mrs. Cruz motioned. Mr. Fuller seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick; Chairperson, Carmen Rocha, Denise Cruz, Rev. John Rice, Danilo Diaz and Brandon Fuller - 6

Nays: 0



Abstentions: 0


Board of Trustees Secretary

Minutes Taken by Ellen Espaillat

02/25/16
Date

