



Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 2018
301 West Hunting Park Avenue- Library
Philadelphia PA 19140
5:30 pm

Board Members Present: Rev. John Rice, Ms. Asdry Irizarry, Mrs. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim

Board Members Absent: Rev. Luis Cortes, Mr. Brandon Fuller, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Mrs. Nancy Santiago Negron

Staff/Management Present: Mr. David Rossi, Mr. William Hopkins, Rev. Danny Cortes, Mr. David Solivan, Ms. Tania Diaz, Mr. Nate Stringfield, Ms. Kim Chung, Ms. Lori Walinsky, Ms. Rebecca DiSalvo, Mr. Jorge Calixto, Ms. Yesenia Garcia

Greetings/Introduction

Rev. Roger Zepernick welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2017 meeting. Rev. John Rice motioned. Ms. Denise Cruz seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. John Rice, Ms. Asdry Irizarry, Mrs. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Statement of Financial Interest

The Statement of Financial Interests forms were distributed to all board members for completion.

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. William Hopkins reported out that the ratio is at 0.60. Redirection funding has been received and continues to be submitted on a monthly basis.

Mr. David Rossi informed that as of December 31, 2017 there is a surplus of about \$304,000 which is primarily due to redirection funds. About \$725,000 in redirection funds has been received from last school year. There is a slight deficit projected for the end of the year.

Mid-Year Report

Ms. Lori Walinsky reported that participation in advanced placement courses has increased. An additional advanced placement course was added this school year English Literature. Honor roll participation has increased for both high school and middle school with females leading the males.

There was a slight decrease in both middle and high school passing rates for all courses. The block classes pass rate has increased. The failure rate analysis reflects that more males than females are failing at both the middle and high school with the largest concentration being in 7th and 10th grade. Administration is looking deeper into teacher failure rate versus course failure rate. Both schools middle and high school have a slightly lower failure rate for English Language Learners.

Film has become a popular major with health sciences and dance following. The teacher education major is not presently running due to lack of student participation. A former student, Albercy Peralta, a former teacher education major, is presently student teaching at the middle school.

Mr. Danilo Diaz asked if there is a reason for a drop in technology and engineering majors. Ms. Walinsky informed that staffing the technology course is difficult given budget reductions.

Ms. Asdry Irizarry asked if outside agencies/institutions are being sought as people who need the experience and students benefit. Ms. Irizarry will forward contact information for professionals who can present to students.

College and Career Report

Ms. Rebecca DiSalvo reported that as of February 1st 92% students (150) have applied to at least one college or university. At least 57.6 % of students were accepted to 4 or 2-year institution and/or military.

About 17 students have received financial reward offers based on merits. Award values ranged from \$3,000-\$25,000 for year one and \$12,000-\$100,000 if renewed over a 4-year period.

The National Student Clearinghouse report measures student college enrollment. Findings show that 47% of the Class of 2017 have enrolled in a post-secondary institution for the fall 2017. The national rate for college enrollment has decreased especially within the minority demographics.

Mr. Danilo Diaz asked how can we increase our enrollment rate and what are some challenges students face when enrolling in college. Ms. DiSalvo informed that some barriers are financial and home situations. The greatest barrier is fear parents face when it comes to taking out loans.

Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim asked if some students do not attend college due to lack of funding from the higher institution. Ms. DiSalvo informed that yes some students do receive financial aid but it is not enough to cover the full tuition. An email will be sent to the Board to verify who is interested in contacting colleges/universities on behalf of students who need additional financial aid.

Rev. John Rice asked if SAT/ACT scores have improved. Ms. DiSalvo has reported that scores has increased slightly. The school has become a testing site in order to make students comfortable taking exams at the school but unfortunately scores have had significantly changed. Mr. Rossi informed that due to budget challenges SAT school day tutoring has been cut. Tutoring exist after school but students are not prone to stay.

Administration and the Board discussed strategies on increasing SAT scores and the impact it has on financial aid packets for students.

School Progress Report

Mr. David Rossi informed that there are three main ways charter schools are evaluated in Philadelphia and one of them is the School Progress Report. This report is done for every charter and district school. We receive two reports, one for the 6-8 school and one for the 9-12 school. Our middle school has been awarded an SPR peer leader due to student achievement. The high school was 2nd out of all schools in our peer group.

Ms. Lori Walinsky informed the School Progress Report looks at three areas which are: Achievement, Progress and Climate. PSSA scores are looked at in the achievement category. In the progress category PVAAS is looked at and the school scored 100%. For the climate category the following areas are looked at: suspension, attendance, retention rate, and parent/guardian survey.

Personnel Report

Mr. David Rossi presented the Personnel Report as follows:

NEW HIRES

Middle School

1. Wolber, Christina: FT Math Teacher, 1/3/2018
Masters in Management and Leadership in Sport, East Stroudsburg University
Pennsylvania Instructional I Certificate: Mathematics 7-9
2. Demshick, Ruth: FT Special Education Coordinator, 3/19/2018
Master of Science in Elementary and Special Education, Holy Family
Pennsylvania Instructional II Certificate: Elementary K-6, English 7-12, Special Education,
Supervisory Special Education PK-12

High School

1. Perez, Haydee: PT Special Education Paraprofessional, 12/20/2017
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts, Cheyney University
2. Rice, Joan: FT Social Studies Teacher, 2/5/2018
Master of Arts in Education, Villanova University
Pennsylvania Instructional I Certificate in Social Studies 7-12
3. Donaghy, Denise: FT Special Education English, 2/12/2018
Bachelor of Arts in English, Green Mountain College VT

Operations/Shared Services

1. Colon, Martina: On-Call Food Service Worker, 1/29/2018

SUBSTITUTES

1. Jackson, Michael (MS)
Master of Education in Elementary Education, Lincoln University
Pennsylvania Instructional I Certification in Elementary K-6 and English 7-12
2. Benner-Kenagy, Chris (HS)
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Central Washington University
3. Taylor, Vernon (HS)
Juris Doctor, Howard University School of Law
4. Dressler, Jennifer (ES)
Bachelor of Arts in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Temple University

5. Drummond, Miisha (MS)
Master of Education Leadership and Administration, DePaul University

STAFF DEPARTURES FOR THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR:

1. Wolber, Christine; FT Math Teacher (MS) 1/30/2018
2. Wagner, Joshua: FT Math Teacher (MS) 2/7/2018

On-Leave: *None*

Vacancies:

HS: PT Social Studies Teacher

MS: None

ES: PT Spanish Teacher

ES/MS: Special Education Coordinator

K-12

- Speech/Language Therapist
- Director of Educational Technology

Staff Transitions:

1. Donahue, Melissa: Previous Position On-Call Substitute, New Position: On-Call Teaching Assistant (ES)
2. Gonzalez, Angel: Previous Position On-Call Cafeteria Worker, New Position: On-Call Maintenance Worker (Shared Services)
3. Cote, Natalee: Previous Position PT Administrative Assistant to the Director of Operations, New Position: On-Call Administrative Assistant (Shared Services)
4. Tomassini-Lebron, Sallymar: Previous Position On-Call Substitute, New Position: FT Math Teacher (MS)
5. Glisson, Jamie: Previous Position On-Call Substitute, New Position: PT Social Studies Teacher (HS)
6. Montes, Daniel: Previous Position PT School Climate Officer, New Position: FT School Climate Officer (ES)

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Personnel Report. Ms. Denise Cruz motioned. Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. John Rice, Ms. Asdry Irizarry, Mrs. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Contract Approval

Mr. David Rossi presented contracts for approval:

1. **ACS International Resources, Inc.:** the administration is recommending the approval of the contract between ACS International Resources, Inc. and Esperanza Academy Charter School for providing IT Support Services for a period of two (2) years. For the period of March 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 cost is fixed at \$6,917 per month. For the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 the fixed fee of \$7,055 per month.
2. **American Capital:** the administration is recommending the approval of the contract between American Capital and Esperanza Academy Charter School for the financing of five (5) HP ProBook 450 G3 Laptops, Forty (40) HP Chromebook 14 laptops, Sixty (60) HP Chromebook 11 laptops and One Hundred (100) Google Administration Consoles. This agreement will be paid in 36 payments in the amount of \$806.90.

Esperanza Academy has an existing agreement with American Capital. The **total cost** of the equipment is **\$26,542.75**.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to accept the Contract Report. Mrs. Carmen Rocha motioned. Rev. John Rice seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. John Rice, Ms. Asdry Irizarry, Mrs. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

CEO Report

Mr. David Rossi informed that the technical assistant grant from PSP will not be awarded this year. Conversations continue with PSP regarding potential future funding.

On February 9th Mr. Otis Hackney, Chief Education Officer for the Mayor's Office came to visit Esperanza Academy. He was able to visit classrooms and talk with students. The Mayor's Office will be choosing the Education Board by the end of this school year.

The School Reform Commission has a new charter school policy that if passed would be well beyond what the Commonwealth law allows an authorizer to do. Over 60 charter schools joined to make a statement opposing the new policy. The meeting is scheduled for later this month. Talking points can be given to any Board member who is interested in knowing more about the topic.

Rev. Roger Zepernick asked if a conversation has been held with the Mayor about Esperanza Academy being a community based school. Mr. Rossi informed that a meeting was held with the Mayor and charter school CEO's. The Mayor stated that it would be difficult to change the agreement with the government agencies to work outside of the School District of Philadelphia.

Discipline Report

The administration and the Board discussed the difference between In-School Suspensions and Out of School Suspension and how it affects the School Progress Report.

Other Topics/Next Meeting Preview

Mr. Danilo Diaz would like administration to look into how to better secure the building given the current state of events.

Rev. Roger Zepernick asked if students are discussing the events that took place in Florida. Mr. Stringfield informed that students are discussing the events and resources have been given to students, guidance and teachers. Students were given the option to reach out to guidance in order to process the event. A letter will be given out to all parents addressing the school's safety protocols. Administration is dealing with students who are not processing the events correctly and joking about the incident.

Administration discussed potential walk out on March 14, 2018. Procedures are in place and discussions have happened with faculty and staff on how to effectively and safely have students lead the process.

Mr. Rossi informed the Board that several students said and posted inappropriate things on social media. The high school administration called the authorities and parents. Philadelphia Police are conducting searches of homes. Mental Health agencies have been involved as needed as well.

Ms. Denise Cruz asked if students are coming forward with information. Mr. Jorge Calixto has informed that students are reporting situation that are happening on social media. Parents are being encouraged to monitor students cell phone usage.

Ms. Asdrey Irizarry asked if an email account can be created where students can anonymously provide tips. Ms. DiSalvo has informed that students are forthcoming and any tips that are received are confidential and anonymous.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2018 if any disciplinary hearing needs to be ratified.

Meeting Adjournment

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Carmen Rocha motioned. Rev. John Rice seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. John Rice, Ms. Asdry Irizarry, Mrs. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Rev. Roger Zepernick, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Board of Trustees Secretary

Date

Minutes Taken by Yesenia Garcia