



Statesmen College Preparatory Academy for Boys PCS

Minutes of October 27, 2021 Board Meeting (in-person & via Zoom)

1. **Board Members Present (in-person):** Nicole Solomon Mitchell, Greg Van Houten, Shawn Hardnett, Satira Streeter Corbitt, and Raymond Weeden.
2. **Board Members Present (via Zoom):** Juan Pagan, Alicia Adams, Bernie Woolfley, Kenny Pegram, Ray McKenzie, Samantha Barbee, and Sandi McCoy.
3. **Board Members Absent:** James Cadogan, Mary Brown, and Bisi Oyedele.
- 4.
5. **Staff Members Present:** Amanda Bloom (Dean of Instruction) and Rictor Craig.
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was taken, the results of which are reflected above.
7. **Approval of August 2021 Board Retreat Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Mr. Van Houten moved to approve the August 2021 Board Retreat Meeting Minutes. Shawn Hardnett seconded the motion. The present board members unanimously approved the August 2021 Board Retreat Meeting Minutes.
8. **Discussion of Board Giving**
 - a. Ms. Mitchell noted the importance of reaching 100% Board giving, for purposes of obtaining grants and other donations.
9. **School Update**
 - a. Mr. Hardnett noted the nationwide operational challenges associated with reopening school programs during COVID-19, but highlighted Statesmen's fervent commitment to focus on academic instruction and academic achievement.
 - b. Attendance is relatively and comparatively high as compared to across the city data.
 - i. Current data is 94.6%, but that statistic is higher than what school leadership is observing.
 - ii. The work to get to that figure is significant—leveraging relationships with families, making phone calls, etc.
 - c. Re-enrollment relatively and comparatively high as compared to across the city data, as well as staff satisfaction.
 - i. 89% projected re-enrollment rate. Once registering students who have left the state, that figure may exceed 90%.
 - ii. COVID has caused people to move and has effected transportation.
 - iii. Before and after-care has also effected re-enrollment.
 - iv. Re-enrollment is particularly high for students with disabilities.
 - v. Staff satisfaction surveys will be administered later this fall.

- d. Continuing to monitor effectiveness of new curriculum.
- e. Support staff is, on the whole, demonstrating significant flexibility and is plugging holes caused by COVID-19.
- f. Inter-student disruptions are being monitored and addressed in real-time, and there has been one suspension so far this year.
 - i. School leadership is working with the family to ensure that this does not become a chronic issue.
- g. Student enrollment – 220 students this year is projected.
 - i. Fourth Grade enrollment is up from last year.
 - ii. At-risk population is nearly 60%, which is a significant increase from last year (46%).
 - iii. SPED is nearly 30% and appears to be a modest increase from last year (or stable).
 - iv. Increase in Ward 8 enrollment. Small and modest decreases in Wards 6 and 7 enrollment.
 - 1. Note: 18 students are currently not registered to a Ward, so that may change the statistics regarding Ward enrollment.

10. Review of Current Student NWEA MAP Data

- a. 75th percentile is marker of students graduating college; 60th percentile is proficiency for purposes of PCSB, 50th percentile is marker of students being accepted to college.
- b. About thirty students not in this data, as of the moment.
- c. MAP data shows significant impact of COVID (*e.g.*, academic achievement sliding, somewhat, for Statesmen Scholars who have been with the program since the beginning).
- d. Math vs. Reading – Math growth lagging is city-wide problem.

11. SY21-22 Lower School Program

- a. Presented by Ms. Amanda Bloom.
- b. Discussion of 4th and 5th Grade ELA, Math, Stem, Kings 101, and Technology programming.
- c. ELA
 - i. 3 genre focus and 3-day cycle, guided and fueled by Lavinia curriculum.
- d. Math
 - i. Also grounded in Lavinia and focuses on one story problem per day.
- e. STEM
 - i. TCI – brand new curriculum uploaded to computer.
 - ii. Very hands-on and immersive programming.
- f. Kings 101
 - i. Curriculum is written in-house.
 - ii. Start of the school year is spent breaking down stereotypes.
 - iii. 4th Grade focuses on slavery globally and in West Africa.
- g. Technology
 - i. Focuses on ST Math and Reading Plus.
 - ii. ST Math – personalized journey and standards aligned.
 - iii. Reading Plus – Adaptive literacy solution.
- h. Lavinia Discussion
 - i. When leveraged with fidelity, is observed to be a very high-impact curriculum.

12. SY21-22 Middle School Program

- a. Presented by Mr. Hardnett
 - i. New Dean for Middle School has decided to depart from the school on Monday. For now, Role will likely be filled by a combination of Mr. Hardnett and Mr. Craig.
 1. Hiring has been challenging across the city.
- b. Discussion of math curriculum, and the focus on conceptual understanding and not pure computation—such an approach is aligned with Common Core.
- c. Pipeline to High School
 - i. Discussion of transition to High School, need for greater communication with parents and to continue forging relationships with high schools.

13. Enrollment, September Financials, and FY22 Budget

- a. Missed enrollment target by 15 students, but because more SPED students enrolled (particularly Level 4 SPED students), we are expecting to be *above* budget by \$166k in per pupil revenue. We also have released our \$54k per pupil contingency.
- b. Given increase in SPED students enrolled, may need to increase SPED expenses (including SPED staffing).
- c. Submitted ESSER grant applications and expect to receive \$52k across all ESSER grants.
- d. Increased certain staff salaries by \$35.5k. This increase will be implemented in November and retroactive to July 1. This will add \$230k in salary expense over budget this year.
- e. Based on early year foodservice bills, increase forecast on foodservices by \$134k.
- f. Saving some on administrative facility costs—these savings were negotiated due to ongoing facility-related issues.
- g. Given all of these changes, forecasting to end year with 124 days of cash and gross margin of -1.0%. Project FAR score of 90.
- h. Ms. Mitchell noted that, once we get through challenges of the start of the year, we need to focus on 5-year financial model, particularly because certain grants will lapse over the next several years. Needs to be a focus on fundraising.
 - i. Fundraising role is still open.
 1. Discussion of using funds for that position to work with organizations who source grants.

14. Review & Adoption of SY21-22 Board & School Goals

- a. Board Goals
 - i. Discussed and reviewed Board Goals for each committee and task force.
- b. School Goals
 - i. Discussed and reviewed draft School Goals.
 - ii. Discussed the need to maintain strong social media presence, as such a presence is important to, among other things, enrollment.
- c. Motion to Approve SY21-22 Board and School Goals.
 - i. Mr. Weeden moved. Mr. Hardnett seconded the motion. All in favor.

15. Facility Update and Vote to Adopt Second Amendment to Sublease

- a. The School Team and Board has worked to ensure that facilities are up to par and that lessor has provided what they have promised under the contract.

- b. 5% management fee was taken out and removed from the contract—this was something the School Team and Board negotiated for.
- c. Also successfully negotiated for alarm replacement and right of first refusal to extend lease.
- d. Mr. Van Houten moved to adopt the Second Amendment to the Sublease. Mr. Hardnett seconded the motion. All in favor.
- e. Thank for you to Mr. Woolfley for arranging for furniture to be provided to the School.

16. Public Session.

17. Adjourned at 9:33 AM EST.