Statesmen College Preparatory Academy for Boys PCS

October 28, 2020 Board Retreat Minutes
via Zoom


2. **Board Members Absent**: Mary Brown and James Cadogan.

3. **Staff Members Present**: Amanda Bloom, Rictor Craig, and Sharonda Mann.


5. **Roll Call**: Roll call was taken, the results of which are reflected above.

6. **General Announcements and Welcome**
   a. Nicole Solomon Mitchell (Board Chair) welcomed everyone to our first open Zoom meeting. Ms. Mitchell discussed general operating procedures, including the ten-minute comment period at the end of the meeting, and Statesmen’s commitment to answer all questions before the next Board meeting.

7. **Approval of August 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**
   a. Greg Van Houten moved to approve the August 2020 Board Meeting Minutes. Samantha Barbee seconded the motion. The present board members unanimously approved the minutes.

8. **Board & School Alignment**
   a. Revisited Statesmen’s four values—relationships, rigor, relevance, and resilience—and discussed how the Board’s work should always align with those values.

9. **Finance**
   b. Discussed how lowered expenses have offset modest revenue shortfall caused by slightly lower-than-projected enrollment.
   c. Reviewed strong key performance indicators, including days of cash, gross margin, and grants invoiced.
   d. Discussed FY21 forecasted operating expenses.
   e. Discussed high-level budget variances and cash flow forecast.
   f. Ms. Mitchell reminded Board regarding our goal of 100% Board giving. Ms. Mitchell noted that 100% of the Executive Committee has already given for 2020.
10. **School Update**
   a. Presented by Shawn Hardnett and Rictor Craig.
   b. Mr. Hardnett noted that, because we are at the beginning of the school year, we do not have all of the student achievement data that we may have later in the year.
   c. Mr. Hardnett noted concern for the physical and mental health of our families and students, given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
   d. Initial data suggests that the Summer School Intensive program worked to recover some academic losses caused by COVID-19 and distance learning.
   e. Mr. Hardnett reported that staff morale is high, as is parent satisfaction.
   f. Attendance is high, but academic engagement (via Zoom and at-distance) is a challenge.
   g. A small group of students struggle with attendance; a small group of students also struggle with achievement via distance learning.
   h. Discussed 2020-21 demographics. Noted increase in Ward 8 representation and the unique fact that we have students from every ward.
   i. 95.8% in-seat attendance for 2020-21 Q1 (very high compared to city-wide attendance during distance learning).
   j. Reenrollment rate should be at or near 95%.
   k. Mr. Craig noted the School’s push to increase the “celebration” around achievement and growth during distance learning.
   l. Discussed and analyzed MAP achievement data.
   m. Noted that, on average, new students are coming in with slightly higher MAP scores.
   n. MAP indicates that the students who started at Statesmen last year grew at an average amount despite COVID-19.
   o. Discussed Statesmen’s Distance Learning Strategy, which focuses on relationships, reading, and math.

11. **Public Session/Comment Period**
   a. No attendee raised any comments or questions for the Board’s consideration.

12. **Adjourned at 9:00 AM EST to enter Closed/Executive Session.**
   a. Sandi McCoy moved to enter closed/executive session. Ray McKenzie seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by board members in-attendance.
   b. Discussed Board of Trustees development and training.
   c. This portion of the meeting was closed pursuant to D.C. Official Code §2-575(b)(12).