

Kids Unlimited Academy, A Public Charter School

Board Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2015

12pm - 1pm

Board Members Present: Pedro Cabrera, Linda Evans, Carol Fischer, Carolyn Hayes, Sister Mary Pat Naumes, Emilie Wylde

Board Members Absent: Frank Phillips & Jeri Olson

Staff Present: Tom Cole, Lynn Eccleston, Jared Ware

Next meeting: June 23, 2015

I. Review and Acceptance of the Minutes

Pedro Cabrera called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

II. Business & Finance Update

Jared Ware reviewed the details of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting with the board. Jared discussed with the board that \$160,000 loss was where he was currently estimating the Kids Unlimited Academy financials for the 14-15 fiscal year. He noted that considering there was initially a budget that called for a fundraising deficit of \$300,000, that the school was in a better place financially than initially anticipated at the start of the year. Jared also noted that the school still had about 300,000 in charter school grant revenue to use over the next year and a half and that the funds from that grant would continue to offset expenses over that time period and put the school in an even better place financially. Jared also noted that KU was awarded a \$90,000 grant for mental health services at KU Academy next year which would provide some budgetary relief as well.

III. Principal Update

Lynn Eccleston and Jared shared the results of the recent US Department of Education Program Audit related to our Charter School Implementation Grant. Jared noted that the Department of Education had highlighted two promising practices within the school, and only had highlighted three areas of concern, which he felt was a really strong reflection of the school on the whole. He added that the school's scores in all areas were that we had either "fully met" or "partially met" the indicator, and there were no areas where the US Department of Education felt our program was substantially incomplete or out of compliance. Jared did add that all three areas of concern were policy related and that they were things that the board could address in the coming months.

Carol Fischer asked if it was something that could be published because of the overall positivity of the audit, because it's so often that reports just focus on the negative aspects. Lynn noted that we could share it once it became final, and added that through all the audits she'd been involved with in education, it was one of the most thorough audits she had ever been through. The board discussed revisiting that topic once we had the final published report.

The board discussed the new Medford 549c school board members positively and generally felt that the changes in leadership might mean a more open-minded approach to charter schools as valuable members of the district's school community.

Lynn talked about the Smarter Balanced testing and noted that for many students it took as long as five hours to complete the test. Lynn added that the school had added a common core aligned quarterly test that helped them get some practice in answering some of those types of questions.

Lynn noted all the activities going on during the day, including a visit from incoming kindergarten students and parents, pre-school playgroups, and the produce give away.

Lynn talked about the Jog-A-Thon. She noted that as a school the student body ran 413 miles. She added that St. Mary's had already stated that they wanted to make it an annual event. Lynn added that one donor had given \$6,000 to ensure every child had a sponsor, she noted that the final tally hadn't been tabulated, but that she guessed that the school had raised over \$8,000 in the event, which made it a successful first year.

Pedro asked when the scores would be back on Smarter Balanced, and Lynn predicted that they would be back to us by August.

Lynn gave an overview of the hiring process for new teachers, and noted that there was another round scheduled for the following day, and noted that they had two classroom teachers left to hire.

Lynn noted that we were in the midst of a Title I audit, but that it was up to the district to determine whether or not Kids Unlimited Academy would be a school-wide program.

Lynn also added that Kids Unlimited Academy would be having its first summer school program this year.

Lynn noted that she would like to see Kids Unlimited Academy join the Medford Food Project, to have more perishable food to share with families.

IV. Executive Director Update

Tom gave the board an overview of the upcoming auction and encouraged them all to attend and assist with putting together packages, or auction packages. Tom noted that at the auction we would unveil a representation of how the upcoming capital vision could look. Tom reviewed the properties that Kids Unlimited was looking to acquire and shared that vision for expansion with the board. Tom also discussed with the board that Kids Unlimited was working with a consultant Marcy Bradley, former Executive Director from Self Enhancement Inc (SEI), to help with the development of charter school policy as well as more definition around the framework through which the two entities can work together towards the same mission and goals.