

# **Kids Unlimited Academy, A Public Charter School**

## Board Meeting Minutes

*August 16, 2016*

*7:30 AM – 8:30 AM*

*Board Members Present:* Pedro Cabrera, Tom Cole, Linda Evans, Martha Ibarra, Sister Mary Pat Naumes, Frank Phillips & Jeri Olson

*Board Members Absent:* Carol Fischer Carolyn Hayes

*KU Staff Present:* Lynn Eccleston, Martin Mares, Jared Ware

*Next meeting:* September 20, 2016 at 7:30 AM

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### **I. Review and Acceptance of the Minutes**

Pedro Cabrera called the meeting to order and asked the board to review the minutes, the board offered Jared a minor correction, which he agreed to record, Linda Evans moved to approve the minutes with changes, Jeri Olson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **II. Introduction of Martin Mares**

Pedro gave the board a brief introduction of Martin Mares, the new Director of School Culture, and asked the board if they had any questions for him. Martin stated that he's looking at ways to get parents, students, and teachers all involved in the process of relationship building and of learning from one another.

Jared noted that he felt Martin brought a great positive energy to Kids Unlimited and the school and that

### **III. Budget & Financial Report**

Jared reviewed the financials with the school and noted that in draft form, prior to the audit, it looked like the school might see a slight positive net income of about \$1,700. He added that it was encouraging as the school was growing to see the financial picture for it begin to move towards sustainability.

Jared also shared that the latest news on the federal charter grant was that it was not likely that we would receive it, based on information we'd received from the Oregon Department of Education. He noted that Tom had reached out to Senator Wyden to see if there was any way he could leverage support for the grant on the federal level, but noted that we had not yet heard any positive news on that front back from the state.

Jared shared that at the next board meeting we should have an end of August financial that would show how much is owed to KU as a long term payable, because the short-term summer payroll accrual would be paid off at that point.

Jared reviewed with the board the progress that we'd made on recommendations by the auditors from the last year including in areas of in which Kids Unlimited of Oregon and Kids Unlimited Academy were working to ensure that their organizational separation, between the two entities was clearly defined both internally and externally. Jared noted that not having combined board meetings, adding a Kids Unlimited Academy phone line, a Kids Unlimited Academy specific website and additional changes to create separation of processes within Kids Unlimited and how it serves the needs of both organizations were some of the changes that had been made. Jared shared with the board a set of revised bylaws that would take a further step of ensuring the bylaws of Kids Unlimited Academy did not have any directors that served on both boards.

Tom discussed with the board his meeting with Pat Huycke and Rick Brewster, as well as with the attorney the two organizations are working with to ensure the organizations have adequate separation between the two of them.

Jared suggested that ultimately Kids Unlimited Academy will probably need to develop an RFP for the services that Kids Unlimited of Oregon currently provides. Kids Unlimited of Oregon would of course apply to fulfill those services, but that would be a step to demonstrate that the two organizations were separate entities and give Kids Unlimited Academy an opportunity to evaluate the services provided by Kids Unlimited, currently at cost, through a fair market bidding process.

Linda Evans and Pedro Cabrera agreed to meet with Pat Huycke prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the bylaws to discuss the changes and the purpose of the changes in more detail.

#### **IV. Capital Campaign Update**

Tom talked about the new enrichment program that was coming into place and trying to bring in high quality enrichment specialists for KUA. Tom talked about the soccer field, which should be installed by the end of September. He noted that it could be an amazing resource for kids in the Kids Unlimited after school programs and also for students at the school.

Tom talked about having the "All In For Kids" fundraiser that Kids Unlimited puts on, and how it could coincide with the opening of the soccer field. Tom shared with the board decisions that the KU board was making around the materials that make up the composition of the soccer field.

Tom also noted that engineering drawings for the capital expansion were in their final stages. Some board members asked Tom some further questions about when some of the facility expansion might begin and he shared that there were still more details to iron out on that front but the timeline was still to finish the project by sometime in the Spring.

#### **V. School Update**

Lynn Eccleston shared the embargoed test scores with the board members, who were directed that they could review them, but not discuss or share them outside of the meeting until they were made public by the Oregon Department of Education. Lynn shared that she was disappointed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) from the 2015-2016 school year. She noted that she would be curious to see how our students did on the growth index from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016, positively or negatively. She added that she would also be curious to see how the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) results looked as well.

Lynn discussed many of the challenges with working with an English Language Learner population and supporting parents who don't speak English to assist their students with academics that are delivered in English. She noted that the students were really exhausted by the end of the school year this past year at the time that they took the SBA assessment, she noted that the students also had a drop in grade level proficiency on internal assessments during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

Lynn talked about the iReady Assessments and how they would be utilized to assess and support instruction this year. She talked about intervention strategies and parent education strategies to support parents with supporting learning at home. Lynn also shared with the board her teacher evaluation process for the 2015-2016 school year and how that would give her a greater opportunity to observe and support teachers.

Lynn presented her plans to turn around and improve student performance. Pedro asked when the student goals would start, she noted that they would start with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Pedro asked how teacher goal setting would go and Lynn described the process. Frank Phillips questioned whether Lynn would have the time to evaluate all of the teachers and all of her direct reports using the framework that she outlined for the board, noting that it seemed that if she did it would take up a majority of her time. Frank asked if the staff had the bandwidth to track all the data described in the plan. Lynn noted that it was a lot, but that they would have to do it, and noted that some substitutes would have to come in to give them some relief to get it done.

Sister Mary Pat Naumes asked if we used volunteers for our enrichment clubs and Tom noted that we have used some, but that we really try to have people who can make a long term commitment. Martin

noted that the school was also hoping to offer some internships to local high school students to support an enrichment class.

Frank Phillips asked some more questions about the Smarter Balanced Assessments and what we were doing to prepare students for it. Lynn discussed preparing students by mirroring more of types of questions on the exam and the types of responses that students would have to give on the computer.

Frank asked what the worst case scenario with the charter was if the scores did not improve? Jared noted that KUA's charter contract with the district no longer had a termination clause for non-performance on state tests, but noted it meant that the organization could be placed on a plan of assistance.

Pedro called the meeting into an executive session.