

Kids Unlimited Academy, A Public Charter School

Board Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2016

12pm - 1pm

Board Members Present: Pedro Cabrera, Tom Cole, Linda Evans, Carol Fischer, Martha Ibarra, Sister Mary Pat Naumes, & Frank Phillips.

Board Members Absent: Carolyn Hayes, & Jeri Olson

Staff Present: Jared Ware, Lynn Eccleston

Next meeting: March 16, 2016

I. Review and Acceptance of the Minutes

Pedro Cabrera called the meeting to order and asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes. Sister Mary Pat Naumes made a motion to approve the minutes, and Frank Phillips seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

II. Business & Finance Update

Jared reviewed the financials through January and noted that the school was showing a positive net income and that it was projected to continue to have a positive net income through the end of the year. He posed to the board whether it wanted to consider repaying a portion of its debt to Kids Unlimited.

The board discussed the pros and cons of repaying the debt at this time. Jared noted that repaying the debt really wouldn't impact the net income of the organization, it would just be a balance sheet transaction, lowering the debt owed to Kids Unlimited and decreasing the cash on hand. Jared added that it could be monitored on an ongoing basis, and that if the school got to a place where the cash flow was too tight to make monthly payments, they could reduce the amount of repayment or halt repayment temporarily. Pedro asked whether there was any downside to making the payments at this point. Carol Fischer noted that she did not see any downside, especially knowing that if for whatever reason the Academy is unable to repay the debt that we would be able to reconsider in the future. Jared agreed, that he didn't see any downside at this time.

After some more discussion, Carol Fischer moved that Kids Unlimited Academy begin to repay the debt at a rate of \$3,500 per month, Linda Evans seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jared noted that once we finalize the spending of the funds connected to our current federal charter grant and once the Federal government signs off on our waiver approving us to receive the state funds that we things look very promising for us to receive the \$450,000 the state has awarded us for middle school expansion.

III. Principal's Report

Lynn noted that the school was spending its current federal grant funds on more computers and technology, more books, curriculum and furniture. Lynn also noted that the school would switch to Power Teaching Math from Singapore for the middle school grades, which aligns better with high school math, and also take on a new component of Success For All Reading for the middle school grades. Lynn noted that attendance was taking a big dip due to a lot of flu-like symptoms in the school.

Lynn reviewed the quarterly scores with the board. She reviewed the successes of most of the grade levels in moving towards proficiency. She noted that every kid made gains. Pedro asked about the third graders who had the lowest percentage of proficient students. Lynn noted that they had the highest percentage of ELL students in the 3rd grade. She added that they were all making gains, and noted that some of the third graders are also new to us and new to the school. Lynn stated that at the end of the year, we should really be able to track cohort data and talk about the growth of students who have been

with us for just one year versus the growth of students who have been with us for two or three years to really see the progress over time better.

Martha Ibarra, Lynn, Pedro, and Linda all engaged in some discussion about how to better support families where English was not the first language. Martha talked about the importance of changing some of the cultural pieces for families, encouraging them to read at home. Lynn also noted that many of the ELL students are basically reading all day at school between reading, ELL, and intervention classes, and so they don't necessarily have the stamina to continue reading in the evening as well and there may not be as much impact from that. Martha also added that there is a competition with technology in all families now with tablets and iPhones so widely available.

Lynn reviewed with the board that the new Rosetta Stone program would be available on the web to families and community members very shortly.

Lynn, Tom, and Jared reviewed the process with the Medford School Board around renewal, and noted that the meeting went very positive and that the review had gone really well. Tom noted that the only issue that they really wanted us to address was how we were doing with suspensions, since when they visited they had noted that the number of suspensions was a little high. Tom talked about the solution with the Mindfulness Center next year and that the District felt like that was a good approach.

The board adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel matters.