

Kids Unlimited Academy, A Public Charter School

Board Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2017

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Board Members Present: Greg Aldridge, Pedro Cabrera, Carol Fischer, Martha Ibarra, Sister Mary Pat Naumes and Linda Evans

Board Members Absent: Carolyn Hayes and Frank Phillips

Community Members Present: Michelle Blum

KU Staff Present: Tom Cole, Martin Mares, and Cass Weiland

KU Staff Absent: Jani Hale

Next meeting: April 11, 2017

I. Review and Acceptance of the Minutes

Pedro Cabrera called the meeting to order and asked the board to review the minutes, Carol Fischer moved to approve the minutes with changes, Greg Aldridge seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

II. Board Chair Update

The board selected a new member of the board and nominated her to fill the vacant position of board secretary. Michelle Blum was nominated by Linda Evans, Greg Aldridge seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Next Board meeting was set for April 11, 2017 to convene as a quorum to adopt the public contracting policy. Meeting will be posted in a statewide paper as well as the Mail Tribune.

The board reviewed the policies up for a 2nd reading. After discussion, Pedro asked for motion to pass. Carol Fischer motioned to adopt all policies 1-6 on the agenda. Greg Aldridge seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Greg Aldridge moved to pass the revised and restated Bylaws, Sister Mary Pat Naumes seconded the motion, and the new Bylaws were unanimously adopted.

III. School Update

Jani Hale provided a detailed written update of what's been happening around the school. It was an attachment provided along with a printed powerpoint presentation of the SIOP trainings. Martin went into more detail of the items on the update.

IV. Business Update

Cass Weiland shared the financials with a recap of the reports stating that things are in a similar position as last year, with less cash on hand, but less debt as well. She shared that KUA liabilities are down almost exactly the same amount as KUA net cash from last year, which means cash flow has remained consistent and debt has been repaid. Cass noted no major concerns and it seems like the school, if it stays consistent with its spending, should remain on budget.

V. Tom's update:

Tom began by saying that everyone gets caught-up in all the things that need to be done, processes and policies, but that it really takes time to build something special. Tom reflected on the once ambitious goal of building a school from scratch, going through the adversity of getting it approved and seeing the positive results unfolding. Tom noted the hard work of Martin, faculty and Jani, transforming the school into something special. Tom shared that he's seen things at their worst, but knew that what KUA had was different than what any other student could get elsewhere because it began under Kids Unlimited. He went on to state that even though KUA didn't have all the refined things in the beginning, kids were getting their needs met and that parents had confidence because the school was operated by Kids Unlimited and knew that would make it special. Tom shared that now what's happening is the KU piece has been preserved, the culture, the way the kids feel while in school, whenever he takes a person on a tour, they realize our school is different. Tom noted that kids react positively to the staff, they're comfortable with being themselves and comfortable with the relationships they've made. Tom discussed the dysfunction that some students bring to the table, but added that they are always made to feel comfortable and included.

Tom stated that he feels that you really can't find that in any other school. He shared that sometimes we can get so consumed with the business piece that we forget about why we are here and that the best is yet to come. Tom offered words of encouragement to the board and anybody who looks at it through the lens of what we don't have, look at what we do have. Tom shared that the school is bringing in new tools for teachers, trainings and evaluations that they didn't have last year. Tom share that they are feeling empowered by it and that behavior systems are starting to align more. He went on to say that it's hard right now and the staff are extremely resilient. Tom shared that kitchen staff is serving tens of thousands of meals out of a trailer and that during the month of February there was no heat in the gym. Tom noted that the board can now see some physical construction starting to take shape. He shared that the leadership team has been strategizing about the needs of the new school. Tom reminded the board that there are way more positives than negatives.