

D.C Public Charter School Board

Meeting Minutes

3333 14th Street, NW Suite 210

Washington, DC 20010

May 20, 2013

6:30pm

Public Hearing

Board Members in attendance: John “Skip” McKoy (Chair), Emily Bloomfield, Sara Mead, Don Soifer, Scott Pearson (Ex-Officio).

Mr. McKoy called the public hearing to order at 6:40pm

Note: A transcript of the public hearing was made.

Public Meeting

Board Members in attendance: John “Skip” McKoy (Chair), Emily Bloomfield, Sara Mead, Don Soifer, Scott Pearson (Ex-Officio).

Mr. McKoy asked if they are any public officials that wished to be recognized- No public officials were announced.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Soifer moved to approve the agenda; Ms. Mead seconded.

The board voted 4-0 to approve the motion.

Approval of the April 25th 2012 Board Minutes

Ms. Mead moved to approve the agenda; Mr. Soifer seconded.

The board voted 4-0 to approve the motion

Submission into the record of Administrative Contracts

Mr. McKoy accepted into record a list of charter school's contracts valued over \$25,000.

Charter Approval for Charter Application

One World

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the staff recommendation against approving One World's application. After board discussion Mr. Soifer moved to not approve; Ms. Meade seconded the motion; the board voted unanimously not to approve the charter application. Two proxies from Brian Jones and Darren Woodruff also voted not to approve.

Nexus Academy

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the staff recommendation against approving Nexus Academy's application . After board discussion, Ms. Mead moved not to approve the charter for Nexus; Ms. Bloomfield seconded; the board voted unanimously not to approve the charter application. Two proxies from Brian Jones and Darren Woodruff also voted not to approve.

DC Voice Public Charter School

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the staff recommendation against approving Nexus Academy's application . After board discussion, Ms. Mead moved not to approve the charter for Nexus; Mr. Soifer seconded; the board voted unanimously not to approve the charter application. Two proxies from Brian Jones and Darren Woodruff also voted not to approve.

Lee Montessori

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the staff recommendation to approve the application of Lee Montessori, with conditions. After board discussion, Ms. Mead moved to approve; Mr. Soifer seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the charter application. Two proxies from Brian Jones and Darren Woodruff also voted to approve.

Crossway Community DC Montessori

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the staff recommendation to not approve Crossway Community's application. After board discussion Mr. Soifer moved to deny the approval of the application; Ms. Bloomfield seconded the motion; the board voted unanimously not to approve the charter application. Two proxies from Brian Jones and Darren Woodruff also voted not to approve.

Nannie Helen Burroughs

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the staff recommendation to not approve Nannie Helen Burroughs' application. After board discussion, Mr. Soifer moved not to approve the charter for Nexus; Ms. Bloomfield seconded; the board voted unanimously not to approve the charter application. Two proxies from Brian Jones and Darren Woodruff also voted not to approve.

O.U.R. Leadership

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the staff recommendation to not approve O.U.R. Leadership's application. After board discussion, Ms. Bloomfield moved not to approve O.U.R. Leadership's

application; Ms. Mead seconded; the board voted unanimously not to approve the charter application. Two proxies from Brian Jones and Darren Woodruff also voted not to approve.

New Pathways Academy

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the staff recommendation to not approve New Pathways' application. After board discussion, Mr. Soifer moved not to approve New Pathway's application; Ms. Bloomfield seconded; the board voted unanimously not to approve the charter application. Two proxies from Brian Jones and Darren Woodruff also voted not to approve.

Academy of Hope

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the staff recommendation to approve Academy of Hope's application, with conditions. After board discussion, Ms. Mead moved to approve Academy of Hope's application; Mr. Soifer seconded; the board voted unanimously \ to approve the charter application. Two proxies from Brian Jones and Darren Woodruff also voted to approve.

Charter Renewal Decisions

Community Academy Public Charter School

School Representative: Mr. Ernest Green, Chairman of the Board; Brenda Bethea, Head of School; Mr. Maurice Sykes, Vice President; Mr. Rob Hagans, Member of the Board

Staff Representative: Sarah Medway, Charter Agreement Specialist

Ms. Medway summarized the board memorandum that states PCSB Staff recommends that the Community Academy Public Charter School ("CAPCS") charter be renewed, but on the condition that its Amos 3 campus close at the end of school year 2013-14 if it does not achieve a PMF score of 40 for the 2012-13 school year.

Mr. McKoy asked for clarification on the reason for the condition. Staff responded that had Amos 3 had a score of 40 the CAPCS LEA would have met the goals and academic achievement expectations set forth in the charter.

Mr. Soifer asked the CAPCS representatives to speak on the current status of Amos III campus as well as the planned move of the Butler campus to the Amos III facility.

Ms. Bethea answered that the Butler campus will be relocating to Amos 3 in the fall of 2013. The leadership at those campuses has a meeting weekly to determine the needs of that co-location so that we will move seamlessly by the end of the school year out of the current of Butler and into the Amos III campus. They will have two separate entrances. They have identified the floor space, with the Butler campus primarily occupying the third floor of the building, Amos III the second floor, and then there will be a division of the Early Childhood campuses on the first floor for the youngest of the population there.

Mr. Soifer asked about the enrollment of the two co-located campuses.

Ms. Bethea answered that they are targeting a total of 750 with the Butler campus.

Mr. Soifer asked if there is a separate charter amendment needed to authorize the move of the Butler campus.

Mr. Pearson answered that a school does not need an amendment to move a campus.

Ms. Meade asked what efforts have been made to engage parents around the transition and what the indication and expectations of parent retention of existing parents will be coming this year.

Ms. Bethea answered that the only challenge that they have met so far has been around the ELL students who live very close to Butler and walk to school. Most of the other population either uses mass transit or the parents drive there. After initial concern by some Butler parents many have become less so after visiting the new facility. Others are considering other CAPCS campuses.

After further board discussion, Mr. Soifer moved to approve the renewal under the following conditions: First, that the Amos 3 campus remains open only if it achieves 40 points on the 2013 PCSB's Performance Management Framework; second that CAPCS is authorized to serve only grades prekindergarten (3-and 4-year olds) through eight; and third, that the enrollment ceiling is reduced to better align with the numbers of students CAPCS currently serves. Ms. Mead seconded. The board voted 4-0 in favor.

Friendship Public Charter School

School Representative: Donald Hense, Founder and Chair; Dr. Gregory Smith-Prince, Treasurer; Mr. Ed Walter, Secretary; Victor Long, Head of Academics and Committee Co-Chair; Dr. Deborah McGriff, head of governance committee; Carol Thompson-Cole, Member of the Board.

Staff Representative: Sarah Medway, Charter Agreement Specialist

Ms. Medway summarized the board memorandum that PCSB staff recommends Friendship Public Charter School charter be renewed based on the school's overall academic, compliance, and fiscal performance. However, due to the low performance in reading at many Friendship PCS campuses, staff recommends that Friendship PCS establish goals and student achievement expectations for reading either by electing to adopt the PMF or by creating similarly rigorous goals. Staff also recommends that Friendship PCS implement a corporate structure with at least two separate corporate entities: one to oversee Friendship's DC public charter school, and another to oversee all aspects of Friendship's work.

Ms. Mead asked Ms. Medway to speak on Friendship PCS partially met goals, specifically around student safety. Ms. Medway answered that the goal is to provide a safe and secure learning community for the schools. Friendship submitted different pieces of evidence, including parent survey results.

Mr. Soifer stated that Friendship's organization deserves considerable praise for its consistent commitment to admit students at all grade levels and for its innovative practices.

Ms. McGriff mentioned that Friendship is a part of the New School Venture Fund National Network. So Friendship has an opportunity to be in a community of practice with some of the highest performing CMOs in the country. Friendship has also been actively involved in the D.C. Schools Fund, which has implemented a number of supports and innovations. And Friendship has become more data-driven through its work with the Achievement Network was an opportunity to build those skills.

Mr. Hense stated that the Charter Board should begin to take into consideration the environment that the schools operate in pointing out that Friendship operates its schools in places where other people would not have opened schools. He also emphasized that Friendship PCS does not, like some other charter schools, exclude new applicants because of their age or grade level.

Mr. Soifer moved to approve the charter renewal with recommendations; Ms. Bloomfield seconded. The board voted 4-0 to approve the renewal.

Notification to Operate in New Facility: Latin American Montessori Bilingual PCS

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the board memorandum that states PCSB staff received notification on April 8, 2013 of Latin American Montessori Bilingual Public Charter School's (LAMB PCS) intent to relocate its LAMB PCS Taylor Street facility, which serves students in grades prekindergarten through kindergarten, from 1600 Taylor Street, NE to 1800 Perry Street, NE (Perry Street Prep PCS Annex). The lease for the Taylor Street location expires June 30, 2013 and the landlord, Michigan Park Christian Church, has chosen not to renew it. The Perry Street Prep PCS Annex was chosen because of its proximity to the existing site (1/2 mile), cost, and suitability. PCSB did not notify ANC 5B within the 30- business day requirement but has

requested a waiver from Commissioner SRS. The ANC is both aware and supportive of LAMB PCS's move.

Mr. Soifer asked if the approval would automatically be contingent on a valid certificate of occupancy. Ms. DeVeaux answered that the certificate of occupancy is needed for them to open.

Mr. Soifer asked if there is a need to make this a condition for approval.

Ms. DeVeaux answered that this was not necessary as PCSB routinely makes a complete check of the certificate of occupancy and other health and life-safety matters before permitting any facility to open.

Approval of New Accrediting Body: KIPP DC

KIPP DC representative: Irene Holtzman

Staff Representative: Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director

Ms. DeVeaux summarized the board memorandum that states KIPP Foundation has submitted a proposal to act as an accrediting body for KIPP DC public charter schools. KIPP Foundation proposes to use their Regional Review process to facilitate the accreditation process, evaluating schools using their Healthy Schools and Regions framework (HSR).

PCSB staff has reviewed the framework and deemed it to be a rigorous and valid measure of school performance. Staff therefore recommends that the Board vote to add the KIPP Foundation as an approved accrediting body for DC charter schools.

Mr. Soifer asked for an explanation of the relationship between the KIPP Foundation and KIPP DC.

Ms. Holtzman answered that KIPP Foundation is a separate entity from KIPP DC. It provides professional development and strong leadership. It permits KIPP DC to use the KIPP name and participate in the benefits of the KIPP Foundation provided KIPP DC meets certain standards.

Ms. Mead asked if it possible for non-KIPP schools to use this accreditation process.

Ms. Holtzman answered that at this point no, but the KIPP Foundation could potentially be open to it in the future

Mr. Pearson said he found the outline of the documents very thorough. His question is how do they ensure that there is impartiality in reviewing the school.

Ms. Holtzman answered that they contract with SchoolWorks, an independent consulting firm to conduct the review.

Mr. Soifer asked if others have approved the KIPP Foundation as an accrediting body.

Ms. Holtzman answered that this is a first and KIPP Foundation is very excited. They are always looking for ways to provide a value to larger KIPP regions that require less support from them. So this is one area, especially for established regions, where they can really be helpful to us and be a signatory on our quality.

Mr. Soifer asked Ms. Holtzman to clarify the governance relationship between the KIPP Foundation and our KIPP DC.

Ms. Bloomfield moved to approve; Mr. Soifer seconded. The board voted 4-0.

Test Integrity Investigation Results:

Meridian Public Charter School -School Representatives: Chris Siddall, Chairman of the board

Imagine Hope Community Public Charter School- Lamond Campus – School Representative:

Jimmy Kemp, Board of Trustees; Michael DePass

Community Academy Public Charter School- School Representatives: Terry Bunton, Director of

Data and Assessment for CAPCS; Brenda Bethea, Head of Schools

Arts and Technology Public Charter School – School Representatives: Darren Riley, Board

Member and Vice President; Corbet Houston, Principal; Kim Smith, Board Chair

Ms. DeVeaux informed the board that these schools were asked to come to discuss the test integrity investigation done by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education on the 2012 DC-CAS or D.C. Comprehensive Assessment System.

Ms. Smith stated that Arts and Technology PCS teaches and practices integrity at all levels from the students up and to the administrators of the Board. The violation is the first such finding for the school in its 14 year history. Ms. Smith described the schools' comprehensive response, and noted that the affected teacher would not return to the school.

Ms. Kemp noted that the violation took place in just one classroom at the Hope Community Lamond Campus. In 2013, prior to being notified by OSSE, the board had seen a PBS documentary on test integrity and directed the school principal to review testing procedures and make sure that all proper procedures were in place. Mr. Kemp noted that the affected teacher would not return to the school.

Mr. Bunton stated that CAPCS takes testing security very seriously. He noted that the incident occurred in one of 90 testing groups. He described several measures taken by CAPCS and noted that the affected teacher would not be returning to the school.

Ms. DeVeaux noted that all student scores from the affected testing groups would be removed from the 2012 DC CAS calculation. These new results would be used to recalculate schools' 2012 PMF scores, and process that was underway. Preliminary results indicate that PMF scores dropped at the four schools but that no school changed its PMF tier..

In regards to Meridian PCS, Ms. DeVeaux informed the board that Meridian had a much more serious situation involving testing violations in multiple classrooms.

Mr. Siddall described the seriousness with which he and the Meridian board took the situation and described the steps the board has taken. These included several steps to ensure the integrity of the 2013 DC-CAS testing procedures.

Mr. Pearson asked if any individual had faced disciplinary consequences.

Mr. Siddall answered that other remedial actions were being contemplated and will be reported out at the next DC Public Charter School Board meeting.

Mr. Pearson informed the board that the report from OSSE states that two sixth grade classes, two fifth grade classes, and one fourth grade class. So that would imply there was an issue with 100 percent of the sixth grade classes, 100 percent of the fifth grade classes, 50 percent of the fourth grade classes, , and zero percent in the third grade classes. After doing some calculations, PCSB staff found that it was roughly 60 percent of tested classes had a testing violation.

Mr. Siddall answered that there are many different ways to cut that information and that he would not want to characterize it beyond the way OSSE has characterized it at this time. He committed to provide prior to the next PCSB board meeting an update on the Meridian response.

Public Comment #1

Ms. Sarah Hines spoke on behalf of Meridian PCS stating that Meridian's investigation is not yet complete. Ms. Hines feels that there has been a lot of attention and focus been put on teachers specifically. Ms. Hines would like the board to keep in mind that she personally does not believe that there were any cheating going on, but that is maybe a biased opinion. There are just erasure marks and speculation. She cautioned against an emphasis on making swift action to terminate people. Ms. Hines does not believe that the focus should be on teacher. The review should look at the overall picture.

Public Comment #2

Michael Groomfield, board member of Meridian stated that he acknowledges that Meridian PCS still has a lot of work to do. No school is perfect and he would like to see a model of the best way to take tests and exams for Meridian PCS.

After agreeing that the board would revisit the Meridian situation at its next meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33pm