DC Public Charter School Board

Meeting Minutes: January 30, 2014 5:30 PM

Meeting Location: DC Public Charter School Board 3333 14th Street, NW, Suite 210 Washington, DC 20010

Public Meeting

Board Members in attendance: John "Skip" McKoy (Chair); Emily Bloomfield; Barbara Nophlin; Scott Pearson (Ex-Officio); Don Soifer. Darren Woodruff voted by proxy.

Not in attendance: Sarah Mead; Herb Tillery; Darren Woodruff

Mr. McKoy called the public meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

I. **Approval of the Agenda**. Mr. Soifer moved to approve the agenda, and Ms. Bloomfield seconded. The Board approved the motion, 4-0.

II. Public Comment.

A. <u>Dr. Richard English</u>, Chair of Board for Booker T. Washington Public Charter School ("BTWPCS"), commented that PCSB staff did not consider the large amount of evidence of the school's success in its renewal assessment, but instead relied on administrative errors in making its decision. He noted that at the informal renewal hearing held at the school on January 14, 2014, PCSB heard testimony from current and former students and business owners about how the school prepares its students well for trade employment. He stated that PCSB unfairly applies academic metrics to assess the performance of schools serving at-risk populations, and that PCSB did not provide the school with meaningful support during the term of its charter. He requested that PCSB not close the school, and that the school leadership is willing to accept conditional renewal.

III. Renewal Vote for Booker T. Washington Public Charter School ("BTWPCS")

A. <u>PCSB Representatives</u>: Ms. Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director; Ms. Sarah Medway, Charter Agreement Specialist

B. Discussion

• Ms. Medway stated that PCSB recommends nonrenewal of BTWPCS' charter agreement, and that the school close at the end of the 2013-14 school year. She

- reviewed the staff analysis of BTWPCS' performance discussed in the memorandum to the Board, as well as the legal standard for charter renewal.
- Mr. Soifer, although acknowledging that there is a need for high-quality programming serving at-risk populations, stated that he supports nonrenewal of the application because the Board must base its decision on the standards for renewal.
- Ms. Bloomfield stated that she also supports nonrenewal. She noted that in signing a charter, the school's board makes an agreement with PCSB that to be held to certain measures in its renewal assessment, and the school had the opportunity to change these measures over the course of its charter. She stated that the law obligates the Board to vote in favor of nonrenewal.
- Ms. Nophlin stated that she agreed with the assessment that the law requires a
 vote for nonrenewal.
- Mr. McKoy stated that although the Board heard testimony regarding the success of individual BTWPCS students, PCSB must also consider data measuring the overall effectiveness of the school's programming. He noted that in signing its charter agreement, the school agreed to be measured by specific goals. He stated that in looking at the overall evidence and data, BTWPCS has not met its responsibility as a charter school in serving its students.
- Mr. Soifer asked whether the staff would reach the same conclusion were they to consider the high school and adult education programs separately. Ms. Medway replied that the staff had assessed each program separately, and that its recommendation would not change; apart each program had not met its goals and expectations, and the school, as an LEA, had not met its goals and expectations.
- C. <u>Vote</u>: Mr. Soifer moved to deny renewal of BTWPCS' charter agreement, and Ms. Nophlin seconded. The Board approved the motion 5-0, with Ms. Bloomfield, Mr. McKoy, Ms. Nophlin, Mr. Soifer, and Dr. Woodruff voting in favor (Dr. Woodruff voted by proxy.) Mr. Tillery was recused.
- IV. **Adjourn**. Ms. Bloomfield moved to adjourn, and Ms. Nophlin seconded. The Board approved the motion 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.