



Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
12.13.2022
27 Balm Grove Avenue
Asheville, NC 28806

Board Members: Gene Bell (Chair), Robby Russell (Treasurer), Susan Shanor (Secretary), Dwight Mullen (Director), Andy Barnett (Director), Kathey Avery (Director), Kerry Freidman (Director), Gordon Grant (Director), David Robinson (Director)

Present:

Gene Bell
Robby Russell
Susan Shanor
Dwight Mullen (arrived at 7:20PM)
David Robinson (arrived at 7:16PM)
Gordon Grant
Kerry Friedman
Kathey Avery

Absent:

Andy Barnett

Additional Persons Present: Kidada Wynn, Brenda Tipton, Dr. Amieris Lavender, Cameron Maybin, Nicholas Lovelace

I. Opening and Quorum:

The regular meeting was called to order by Gene Bell at 7:06 PM with six of nine members present.

II. Public Comments

The three guests introduced themselves. Nicholas Lovelace is the parent of a 2nd grader who came to the meeting to better understand the PEAK vision and to offer his support for PEAK. Cameron Maybin is a former professional baseball player, community volunteer and founder of Streets to Peaks. Dr. Amieris Lavendar is the Chief Program Officer at the YWCA and facilitator for educational focus, Asheville Reparations Commission.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes

Kerry Freidman moved to approve the 12/13/2022 agenda, Gordan Grant seconds. All unanimously agree and motion carries to approve agenda. Kerry Freidman moves to approve

minutes from the 11/8/22 Board Meeting, Kathy Avery seconds. All unanimously agree and motion carries to approve minutes. Kerry Freidman moves to approve the 11/8/22 Closed Meeting Minutes, Robby Russell seconds. All unanimously agree and motion carries to approve closed session minutes.

IV. School Leader's Report

As her first Board meeting since becoming School Director, Ms. Wynn expressed her commitment to close the achievement gap through aggressive recruitment, enrollment, teacher certification, academics, student support services, and connecting with families and neighborhoods.

After her presentation much discussion ensued around enrollment and meeting PEAK charter goals given the Asheville demographics. Ms. Wynn is committed to community engagement. Enrollment is being "stepped up" by Ms. Wynn and her team going out to events and into target neighborhoods – meeting families and assisting with enrollment forms. It was acknowledged that in Year 1 PEAK had over 40 students in kindergarten and that, under Ms. Wynn's recruiting strategies, kindergarten should be able to begin school year 2023-24 with at least as many kindergarteners as Year 1. Ms. Wynn explained that all enrollment must be in compliance with DPI for charter schools.

Dr. Amieris contributed that the YWCA has two PK classes with 18 students each. While they cannot favor any school the Y is open to any school making parents aware of its kindergarten option. Also she said that the ACS have a program to recruit Black teachers and that anyone can attend her meeting with the education sub committee of the Asheville Reparations Commission.

Ms. Winn asked that the Board set target numbers for next year, and Gene Bell committed to promptly get back to her.

V. Financial Report (Robby Russell)

Robby Russell reviewed the 11/1/22 – 11/30/22 financial report. Robby acknowledged that PEAK has a high expense base, particularly in salaries. PEAK is looking at ways to streamline costs – reducing food waste (currently getting 30% more meals than are used and changing menu to foods students will eat; evaluating whether two storage units are needed and whether unneeded furniture can be sold; and repairing or replacing copier that is costly to operate.

VI. Fundraising (Susan Shanor)

Susan Shanor announced that PEAK has met its minimum 2022-23 community fundraising goal of \$250,000 set by the Board earlier in the year. Amount raised is lower than last year in large part because PEAK got several large one-time donations specifically to help open the school. PEAK continues to need to expand its donor base.

VII. Marketing/Communications (Gordon Grant)

Gordon handed out an excellent press release that he and Kidada crafted. Gordon will make sure that the press release gets to all press outlets and other community constituencies.

VIII. Facility (Gene Bell)

Gene announced that he was still working with the church to separately meter utilities.

IX. Additional Announcements

Brenda Tipton gave an exit interview summary of why students withdrew from PEAK between June 2022 and early September. The primary reason was that six students moved (five out of state and one too far to commute) and six families needed transportation or needed children in same school. Five students were withdrawn due to parent concerns. Gene thanked Brenda for this work and asked her to continue keeping this record. Five new students have enrolled to start in January.

X. Closed Session

Susan Shanor makes the motion to move into closed session to discuss personnel matters. David Robinson seconds. All unanimously agree and the Board moves into closed session at 8:20PM. The Board moves back into open session at 9:00PM per vote in closed session.

XI. Adjournment

Susan Shanor makes the motion to adjourn the meeting, Gordon Grant seconds. All unanimously agree and motion carries. The meeting ends at 9:00PM.