



## Board of Directors Meeting

PEAK Boardroom  
27 Balm Grove Ave  
Asheville, NC 28806

**6/11/24 5:30 PM**

Present: David Robinson, Gene Bell, Andy Barnett, Kerry Friedman, Kathey Avery, Dwight Mullen, Crystal MacKinnon (via zoom)

Staff: Kidada Wynn, Joyce Hicks

Guest: Melanie Franklin

- 5:45PM: GB commences the meeting.
- GB opens Public Comment.
  - KA introduces Melanie Franklin as a potential new board member. Melanie's strong suit is her experience in education. The Board will discuss and let Ms. Franklin know.
- AB moves to approve the Consent Agenda; KA seconds; none oppose.
- Approval of 5/14/24 minutes tabled. GB and DR will reconstruct from personal notes.
- JH begins a financial update and presents a new budget for the 24-25 school year.
  - 23-24 budget is currently \$2.8M; 24-25 budget is \$3.293M
  - JH points out the significant growth in the salaries and benefits line items due to the hiring of eight new staff; additionally, several teachers awaiting visas have not been paid, but upon visa approval, this will change.
  - JH emphasizes the need for strategic planning to ensure financial stability and efficient resource utilization was emphasized. The board also discussed potential additional revenue sources, such as grants and donor contributions, to support the school's operations and initiatives, and ways in which we can partner to reduce costs.
  - GB requests that we separate out basic school costs from unique offerings and their associated costs that we may use for grantors and donors. What is the "special sauce," so to speak.
  - **GB calls for a motion to approve the budget. KF motions to approve; CM seconds; none oppose.**
- Kidada Wynn begins the School Leader's Report

- With the school's planned expansion, the need for additional staff, particularly for the sixth-grade level were highlighted. Hiring efforts were ongoing to recruit a qualified kindergarten teacher and an executive assistant to support the administrative team.
  - KW addressed challenges related to funding and retaining school nurses. KW is exploring potential collaborations with local health organizations to ensure the provision of necessary nursing services for the students.
  - KW expressed concerns about the current immigration attorney's performance and the high legal fees associated with the green card process for immigrant teachers. **The board moved unanimously to allow KW to explore alternative legal representation options to expedite the process and provide necessary support to immigrant staff members.** KW & CM will assist with this process as needed. KW will send the engagement letter and other relevant documentation.
  - Plans for moving to new school facilities were discussed, including considerations for playground equipment and classroom partitions. RFP has been submitted to HACA and we are awaiting a final answer.
  - Community engagement: plans for welcoming events and community collaboration, especially if the school secures new facilities, in recognition of the importance of fostering positive relationships with the community and involving stakeholders in decision-making processes.
  - KW provided details about the upcoming summer school program and highlighted the need for a board retreat to engage in strategic planning. The retreat would allow the board to set goals, assess progress, and align future actions with the school's mission and vision. Facilitator is being sought.
- Committee Reports/Board Discussions
    - Fundraising – no additional discussion.
    - Facilities/Building updates – discussion surrounding pending RFP and expected timeline.
  - 7:28PM: CM moves to adjourn; KA seconds; none oppose.