

Conservatory Lab Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 14, 2017  
5pm-7pm  
133 Hancock Street, Dorchester MA

Present: Bethany Ford, Erika Sanchez, Kimberly Nelson, Tyrone Sutton, Lynn Cetrulo, Martha Kleinmann, Clay Rives, Kitty Pell, Kay Sloan, Gary Gut, Melanie Sheffield, Myriah Johnson, Lisa Wong, Maisha Douyon Cover, Keree Simmons, Brad Richardson, Staverne Miller, Bob Grinberg, Reverend Groover

Staff: Linda Nathan (CAS), Rachel Sacks (FDN), Tess Plotkin (staff), Allison Chow (staff), John Chistolini (staff), Jay Davidson (CAS), Beatriz Abascal (FDN), Nicole Mack (staff), Josue Gonzalez (staff)

Guests: John Paollela – via phone (FDN), Seth Racine (consultant)

Absent: Danna Mauch

AGENDA

- I. Public Comment
  - There was no public comment.
  
- II. Approval of 9.19.17 Board meeting minutes
  - Gary asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Martha put forth the motion, Clay seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.
  
- III. Amendment for shortened length of school year
  - Linda re-stated the motion, and Nicole reviewed with the board why this proposed minor charter amendment was beneficial for teachers and students.
  - The proposed minor amendment states:
    - Motion:  
Resolved, the Conservatory Lab Charter School (CLCS) Board hereby puts forth the motion to propose a minor charter amendment to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. The proposed minor amendment would shorten the length of the school year from 190 days to 185 days, starting in the 2018-2019 school year.
  - Gary asked for a motion to approve the proposed minor amendment. Martha put forth the motion, Kay seconded the motion. A brief discussion ensued about whether or not this minor amendment would be indefinite, and Linda and Nicole clarified that it would be an indefinite change, upon approval of the DESE Commissioner. After this brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Horace Mann option discussion

- Gary asked everyone to review the motion as it had been revised. The revised motion states:

Motion:

Resolved, the Conservatory Lab Charter School (CLCS) Board hereby:

- establishes a preference to apply for Horace Mann Charter school status in lieu of remaining a Commonwealth Charter school, provided such status clearly establishes that the Boston School Committee and Boston Public Schools will provide a building beginning no later than July, 2019 for the school and provided further, that the path to DESE/BESE approval will allow all existing students to remain enrolled at the school
- authorizes the Executive Committee to take steps necessary to implement such a change, subject to Board approval of the final Horace Mann application and MOU's with the Boston School Committee and either the union or CLCS faculty, as applicable
- Nicole Mack (Principal) presented to the board why she feels that establishing a preference to pursue a Horace Mann option is the best model for staff and students. A discussion ensued regarding this topic, with board members asking Nicole questions regarding why she feels this model is most appropriate.
- John Chistolini (CLCS COO) spoke in favor of pursuing a Horace Mann model, citing the stability of the school as being the most important priority. John felt that the Horace Mann model would provide the most stability for staffing, students, and facilities.
- Bob Grinberg discussed the conversations he had with various principals of Horace Mann charter schools in Boston.
- A discussion ensued regarding the comparison of finances with a Horace Mann model, Commonwealth Charter, and improved Commonwealth Charter model.
- Gary passed out a document that summarized facts previously discussed regarding the Horace Mann model, and what that would mean for CLCS, in order to assist board members in the decision-making process regarding the proposed motion.

V. Gary asked for general comments/discussion regarding the proposed motion to establish a preference for a Horace Mann charter. Highlights of this discussion include:

- If school leadership feels strongly about this option, we should pursue it.
- Need for a consistency of leadership.
- Need to think about how this will affect Foundation and donors, and make sure to put careful thought into these relationships.
- Discussion regarding timeline for pursuing Horace Mann option, as well as the timeline for continuing the Columbia Road project.

- VI. Gary asked for a motion to approve the proposed motion of establishing a preference for Horace Mann. Reverend Groover put forth the motion, Martha seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn put forth by Gary – meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

**Documents/Exhibits used during the meeting**

1. 9/19/17 Board meeting minutes
2. Proposed vote on the minor amendment to shorten the school year length (starting in the 2018-2019 school year)
3. Proposed vote on Horace Mann preference
4. Update on the Columbia Road project (from Bob Grinberg, Brad Richardson, and Gary Gut)
5. Linda's talking points regarding Horace Mann charter
6. 2016-2017 MCAS data slide deck
7. Annual Fall Community meeting slide deck
8. Bob Vinci and Maisha Douyon Cover's board retreat presentation