

Minutes
Conservatory Lab Charter School
Board Meeting
January 12, 2017
4:30p.m.
133 Hancock St., Dorchester, MA

Present: Gary Gut, Clay Rives, Martha Kleinman, Kay Sloan, Lisa Wong, Brad Richardson, Bob Grinberg, Danna Mauch, Maisha Douvon Cover, Bethany Ford, Anne Snyder, Stephanie Perrin, Myriah Johnson, Erika Sanchez and Kitty Pell

Absent: Melanie Sheffield, Keree Simmons, Staverne Miller and Elaine Ng.

Staff: Linda Nathan(CAS), Seth Racine(CAS), John Chistolini, Nicole Mack, Josue Gonzalez, Hillary Shea, Allison Chow, Dana Reder, Carmen Torres, Bea Abascal and Cecilia Soriano

AGENDA

Gary Gut opened the meeting at 4:34 p.m. and began with

1.Public Comment

Talullah Sullivan, 2nd grader read a prepared statement in which she expressed her support for a later start to the day for next year.

Ms. Schibuk, 7th and 8th grade science teacher, reported that other Middle School teachers are in support of the proposed changes. She also stated that she and the other teachers are very grateful for the new vision for the school. It feels very positive.

There was a survey taken in the 3rd grade and these are the outcomes: in favor of a later day – 9 to 3; in favor of having 1 week longer in summer 20-2; in favor of staying the same 3-11.

Another comment reported that when Orchard Garden changed to a similar schedule, the school improved from a level 4 to a higher level status.

Approval of Minutes from December 15th Special Board Meeting

Kay Sloan moved to approve the minutes, Lisa Wong seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

2. Plan and Schedule of Joint Strategic Plan Work

Martha Kleinman, Co-Chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee introduced Liz Curtis, Principal, from TDC the consulting firm for the new Strategic Plan. Ms. Curtis after giving some background on her company said that in working on the Strategic Plan for our organizations, she will need the involvement of all stakeholders. Meetings which are open meetings will be arranged with constituents of all organizations involved with the school, CAS and the Foundation. Plans will be sent to the entire Boards

3. Preliminary Plans for School Operations 2017-2018

Pages of Power point entitled: Proposed SY 2017-2018 Plan: Moving the Vision Forward were reviewed.

Linda Nathan gave an overview of the four key changes:

- Change of Schedule – length of year and day
- Focused El Sistema time
- Coaching of teachers and students

Nicole Mack explained the academic changes more fully and presented the rationale for Math Consultant and for additional coaching for teachers.

Josue Gonzalez explained the rationale for the shortened El Sistema time

The Board was asked to approve a minor amendment to DESE requesting a shorter day.

Discussion ensued: Martha Kleinman, Bob Grinberg, Kitty Pell, Myriah Johnson and Stephanie Perrin all expressed concern about the reduction in time for El Sistema.

Concerns expressed:

- Does this change make us merely an academic school with a little music
- Is our mission going to be accomplished with this shortened schedule for El Sistema.
- Consider that we are truly hampered by our space constraints.
- Need to return to Music integration – work with music for academic teachers
- Need to organize schedule that will facilitate planning time for Resident Artists with academic teachers.
- Expeditionary Learning and El Sistema brings the community together, have to expand that.
- We must structure and allow for peer teaching
- More performances outside of the school.

- A rubric needs to be prepared for improvement in the music.

Gary thoughts:

- We are a Lab School. We are going to be trying out something new.
- For coaching: focus will be on practiced observation and feedback.
- The bus schedule from BPS will have a major impact on the final decision.
- Shorter time schedule is not in and of itself going to get good results.
- We are making a permanent change. We are committing to the experiment for 2 years and then will need to evaluate how well it worked in terms of student outcomes

Gary Gut made the motion to approve sending the request for a minor amendment to the School's charter to shorten the school day to DESE. Stephanie Perrin seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

4. Development Report

Clay Rives, Co-chair of the Development Committee reported that \$307,000 has been raised to date, that is more than ½ way to this year's fundraising goal of \$500,000. That figure is 20% ahead of last year at this time.

Praise goes to Be Abascal and her team for the timely responses of gratitude to all contributors.

The Giving Tuesday effort yielded more than \$10,000

Clay thanked Kitty and Tony Pell for their generous Matching gift.

Clay also reported on the cultivation event which he hosted at the Somerset Club in November, reporting that Linda Nathan gave a wonderful presentation and that everyone was impressed.

5. Report on Empowerment Zone Conversations

Seth Racine reported on this growing movement. It is a 3rd way, somewhere in the middle between district schools and Charter Schools

There is going to be a gathering on February 2nd in Springfield where more can be learned about Empowerment Zones. He is planning on attending and invites other to go.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.