

Minutes of
Conservatory Lab Charter School Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 24th, 2017 4:45 – 6:45p.m.
133 Hancock St. Dorchester

Present: Lisa Wong, Martha Kleinman, Anne Snyder, Gary Gut, Clay Rives, Bradley Richardson, Myriah Johnson, Kay Sloan, Bob Grinberg, Bethany Ford, Maisha Douvon Cover, Stephanie Perrin, Erika Sanchez
Absent: Kitty Pell, Melanie Sheffield
Guest: Liz Curtis (TDC)
Staff: Linda Nathan, Seth Racine, Carmen Torres, John Chistolini, Bea Abascal, Josue Gonzalez and Connor Green

The meeting was called to order at 4:50p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes – Martha Kleinman moved to approve the minutes from the April 25th CLCS meeting, Clay Rives seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Educator Highlight: Carmen Torres, Director of Student Support Services and Connor Green, Counselor at the lower school, presented an overview on Social Emotional Learning at Conservatory Lab Charter School. At the Elementary Level the key points made are for students to:

- learn to become: artists, scholars and citizens
- learn how attendance and discipline leads to achievement
- achieve primary levels of learning
- learn zones of regulation and coping strategies for every level.

For Grades 3 thru 8 students learn

- to build executive functions: getting organized, set goals, learn strategies, etc.
- how to engage, build relationships, speak out, and reflect

Different arrangements for CREW in the school were explained. 1st build a strong individual, then branch out into groups and then branch out into the community.

3. Strategic Planning Update:

Liz Curtis from TDC began by stating that the goal for the Strategic Plan is to set a vision for Conservatory Lab Charter School and the the Center and a strategy for how to achieve that vision. Key steps followed have been to:

- discover the competition to the Center and better discover the need
- Interviewed Senior Staff and Board members
- Surveyed parents, faculty and staff.
- Developed a Financial Model

- Parent survey had us understand why parents choose this school, which helped us to understand how this aligns with the mission of the school. Helped us to understand attrition.
- Staff Survey helped us to see awareness of faculty to the 3 foci of the school – Expeditionary Learning, El Sistema and Social/Emotional learning.
- Surveys identified areas of reservation on the part of both families and staff.
- There was correlation between what the parents said and what the faculty said.
- The area where there was least response was from the Middle School
- The results from these surveys are seen as a baseline from which to build improvements for next year.

4. Facilities Update:

Gary began by stating that there are three options being considered

- Columbia Road:

P & S signed. Going forward \$200,00 will be due in 3 months. Decision needs to be made by 7/31/2017. Banks are interested in financing. Expenditures need to be made for environmental, site survey, conception & design, traffic study. There is good support from the surrounding community, the mayor and the city. Can possibly fit the entire school.

- Site in Mattapan

Not as far along in this process as for the Columbia Rd site. Don't know the price. Don't have a timeline. Entire school would fit on the site. Has feel of a campus.

We have two years before we must leave the Carney Hospital site.

Discussion ensued as to the need for transparency in all decision –making regarding facilities. Parents want to be involved. Need to develop a robust plan to include parents as well as to do due diligence to include the community. Important to have a good representation from our school attend community meetings.

- Creative Ideas for Alternate Partnerships

K-12 Arts Immersion Site Pathway which would involve a partnership between CLCS and BAA plus other partnerships. The City would like this to happen.

There are issues of governance, funding, programming and timeline to consider.

This is not necessarily an option that includes real estate

5. Budget Report:

Brad Richardson gave the financial report for Bob Grinberg, Chair of the Finance Committee. New to report is that the tuition for next year is \$200 less than last year, per student. That represents a 1.5 % decrease which totals \$230,000. However, there will still be a surplus.

6. Development Report:

- \$430,000 have been raised to date.
- Still expecting to receive the \$40,000 Challenge Grant from Kitty Pell
- Alert given regarding Crescendo Day! which will be June 1st, 2017
- Projections for next year anticipate similar response from our Annual Donors
- Bradley Richardson extended Congratulation to Bea Abascal and her staff for an excellent job!

7. Governance Update:

Stephanie Perrin distributed a hard copy of her report to all present. The highlights of which are:

- Recruitment of new members is progressing nicely
- Focus on Diversity continues to be a focus – 4 of the upcoming candidates are people of color.
- Need to recruit members who have funds, a network of friends or both
- There will be a full board assessment conducted in June via Survey Monkey
- The next Governance Committee Meeting is June 5th.

8. June End-Of-Year Meeting Logistics - 2017-2018 Dates

Anne Snyder asked everyone to note that 10-28-2017 is scheduled as a full day retreat for members of all three boards together.

Linda Nathan review the line-up for the meeting on June 20th:

- 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. Joint Strategic Planning Committee
- 5:30 – 6:00p.m. Dinner
- 6:00 – 8:00 Annual Meeting

Anne Snyder made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Martha Kleinman and passed unanimously by all.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55p.m.