

SCHOOL IN THE SQUARE CHARTER SCHOOL

Meeting of the Board of Directors

October 24, 2017

MEETING MINUTES

Location: School in the Square

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order): Peter Gatof, Scott Gottlieb, Scott Levenson, Aaron Listhaus (by phone), Evan Meyers, Michael Pollack, Walter Rendon, Joel Talish, Mindy Tucker

Other attendees: Alan Dichter, Chelsey Pinke, Carrie Amon

Materials provided to the Board prior to the meeting: September financials, Draft audited financials for FY2017, Board meeting presentation, Meeting Minutes for 9-26-17, and Executive Director report

BUSINESS MEETING:

Mr. Pollack opened the meeting.

Ms. Amon reviewed the comparative Fall 2017 v. Fall 2016 individual student academic assessments for both 6th and 7th grade in math and reading, and discussed how the students were grouped and personalized teaching programs were developed and implemented for each student.

Mr. Meyers reviewed the Executive Director report, noting that the school had adopted the policy not to backfill any open spots in the 7th or 8th due to student transfers, with the exception of a sibling of an incoming 6th grader. Mr. Meyers also discussed the efforts to inform each student of their standing with respect to academics.

The Board hosted a guest speaker, Shavar Jeffries, President of Education Reform Now. Mr. Jeffries discussed the work of his organization, and how S2 might get involved in the public support of charter schools.

Committee Reports:

Governance Committee (“GC”). Mr. Pollack noted that the Board had participated in a retreat on October 15th, and the GC would get together to discuss follow-up prior to the next Board meeting. Mr. Pollack also noted that the committees should begin to think about Year 2 goals.

Academic Committee (“AC”). Mr. Levenson commented that the AC continues to evaluate the student testing data and how best to use to evaluate the aggregate assessment of S2. Mr. Levenson noted that the AC will meet with Evan prior to the next Board meeting to conduct the first quarter review on the 3 pillars and school’s overall position.

Finance Committee. Ms. Tucker reviewed the first quarter reforecast for FY2018, noting that net income has increased by \$142K for the year, and assuming \$1 million in fundraising for Year 2, will end the year with approximately \$686K before taking into account the additional salary for the pending

hiring of an additional math teacher. Ms. Tucker also noted that the audit of the FY2017 financials was completed and there were no material findings. There were some adjustments to the previously reported financials to adjust rent expense and equipment expenditures for GAAP. In addition, it was determined that the payable to ESH for \$37K could be eliminated. The auditors recommended the development of a disaster recovery plan for the school. Mr. Gottlieb offered to explore a disaster recovery plan for the school from a real estate perspective. Ms. Tucker thanked the Board for approving, on a preliminary basis, the hiring of an additional math teacher, as described in an earlier email to the Board. The position in question would constitute an “early” hiring of a math teacher for the FY2019 school year, as recommended by Mr. Evans given the quality of the candidate.

Development Committee. Mr. Talish discussed the upcoming Fall Fundraising event, encouraging everyone to continue to reach out to invitees. The budget for the event is \$10-\$15K. Lincoln Avenue Workshop completed their first of two days of filming for the video they are producing for the evening.

Board Votes: The Board voted on the following items:

- **Approval of Peter Gatof as a recommended Board member.** Mr. Talish made a motion that the Board, having conducted a thorough background check via a fingerprint scan as required and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided such history to SED if found, recommend Peter Gatof as a final candidate to the Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on June 2020, pending approval by SED. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon, and unanimously approved by the Board.
- **Approval of 9-26-17 Meeting minutes.** Mr. Pollack made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the 9-26-17 Board meeting. Mr. Rendon seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- **Approval of the potential hiring of an additional math teacher.** Mr. Levenson made a motion to approve the hiring of an additional math teacher for the current school year, whose salary would be pro-rated for an early November start date. Mr. Rendon seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- **Approval of FY2017 Audited Financials.** Mr. Pollack made a motion to approve the draft FY2017 audited financials that were prepared by Schall & Ashenfarb and provided to the Board members prior to the meeting. Mr. Talish seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Pollack adjourned the meeting.

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Respectfully submitted: Mindy Tucker, Recording Secretary