

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, March 22, 2016
Our World Neighborhood Charter School
Middle School
31-20 37th Street, Astoria, NY 11106
7:00 pm

The Trustees present were:

Maura Fitzgerald, Secretary
Rich Bogle
Olubunmi Emigli
Sarah Espanol

Also present were:

Brian Ferguson, Executive Director
Lisa Edmiston, Principal
LaToiya Revell, Vice Principal
Karrine Montaque, Business Manager
Mark Crusante, Director of Development
Yvette Strachan, Executive Assistant
Anna Evenhouse, PTO Co-Chair

Maura Fitzgerald, Secretary of OWNCS Board of Trustees, chaired the meeting.

Director's Report
Brian Ferguson

SUNY CSI School Performance Summary

Mr. Ferguson circulated the School Performance Summary and Comparative Performance Analysis Report issued by SUNY CSI on March 10, 2016 which provides a summary of our school state test results as they pertain to our Accountability Plan in the context of the Institute's standards for renewal. For the school performance summary, OWN met both the Comparative and Growth measures, but not the Absolute measures for ELA and Math. The overall comparative performance for OWN was "higher than expected to a large degree" for both ELA and Mathematics.

FY17 School Calendar

Mr. Ferguson informed the Board that the NYC DOE has added two Muslim holidays to the school calendar, which will make it somewhat more difficult to fit in the required 190 instructional days next year. OWN starts earlier than other schools each year, but other than that, we generally find it's easiest for our families if we follow the DOE calendar. After reviewing the pattern of holidays for the coming school year, the Administration will likely recommend one deviation from the DOE calendar, which would be to stay

open on the second day of Rosh Hashanah in October, since this is expected to have the least impact on our population of students and staff given our current demographics.

Status of Replication Application

Mr. Ferguson reported that the application is nearly ready for submission in one week, and said he would be circulating sections for review. He explained that the budget, which should be viewed as a guideline and not a binding document, represents our best thinking at the moment, taking into account that there are many unknowns – especially as regards facilities. Mr. Ferguson also circulated the latest organizational chart which reflects the input of the Executive Committee. He noted that we want to be mindful not to make the structure too top-heavy. After a review of the draft chart, the Board strongly recommended that the only staff member reporting directly to the Board should be the Executive Director, and that all other senior staff should report directly to the ED.

Mr. Ferguson offered a special thank you to Mark Crusante and Karinne Montaque for their work on the proposal, and cited the amazing efforts made all around including by teachers and instructional coaches. The Board heartily seconded his thanks.

Facilities Committee

Rich Bogle and Brian Ferguson

Mr. Bogle and Mr. Ferguson reported on the joint call of members of the Finance and Facilities Committees held on March 16 at which they reviewed the work of consultant Florence Adu, in collaboration with the administration and Mr. Guadagnolo, to build and analyze financial models for the Lifetime Building project. They revisited the original model and its underlying assumptions, especially as regards enrollment, since per pupil income comprises the bulk of our income. Unfortunately, projected construction costs have increased from \$19 to \$24 million over the last five years. Regardless, the Committee believes the project is feasible and that the key to securing the requisite financing is receiving approval and a long-term lease from the EDC. It has been their impression that the EDC would be willing to do so, as long as we don't ask for any concessions, such as a rent abatement, during construction. With this in mind, Ms. Adu is reaching out to the EDC to arrange a small meeting.

Mr. Ferguson reported that Ms. Adu has also been engaged to advise on facilities matters pertaining to our replication application.

Joint report of the Finance & Administration and Audit Committees

Maura Fitzgerald and Karinne Montaque

Ms. Fitzgerald reported that the Finance Committee would like to recommend the mid-year budget revision for approval, and lauded the Business Office for its work in balancing the budget by containing fringe benefit costs while still preserving a solid benefits package. Ms. Montaque added that the school was hit with some major capital expenditures, but due to the savings, we have not had to cut back on programs. She went

on to say that the school had received a clean A-133 audit and that both the audit and the draft 990 are pending review.

Looking ahead to FY17, we will know whether per pupil funding will be increased by April 1.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Trustees:

RESOLVED to approve the mid-year budget revision for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, as presented.

Education Committee

Sarah Espanol

Ms. Espanol reported that, based on their analysis of the current SPED population, and which students could benefit the most from a Collaborative Co-Teaching (CCT) model, the Committee and administration are likely to recommend that the CCT pilot program be rolled out to the 4th, 5th and 7th grades next year. The administration is seeking options for training the principals on co-teaching so they can support the staff. They are making plans to inform the 4th and 5th grade teachers and to ask for volunteers to apply for a co-teaching team.

PTO

Anna Evenhouse

Ms. Evenhouse reported that the PTO had photographed and circulated pictures of hundreds of items (many of them quite expensive) in the Lost & Found, in order to help families reclaim their property.

The Free Art Saturdays program has been launched and about 48 children have registered for classes in acting, sculpture, yoga, etc. The program has received tremendous support from seven student volunteers from Frank Sinatra High School who have devised plans to offer their own class in musical theatre for the program next year.

The PTO has arranged for Ivy Prep to present at the next PTO membership meeting. They are also organizing a K-2 craft fair, teacher luncheons, Multicultural Day, and they are looking into options for the Book Fair.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maura Fitzgerald, Secretary, OWNCS Board of Trustees