



MINUTES

Date October 15, 2020

6:00 pm

Howard Street Charter School

Virtual Board Meeting

**Board Present:**

Kelby Childers
Jared Whitney
Erik Davis
David Rigsby
Matt Swain
Leslie Savage

Board Absent:**Guests:**

Christina Tracy
Alicea Tresidder
Sarah Larimore

QUORUM ACHIEVED –

*phone in

_Kelby _convened meeting at 18:00

Teacher Spotlight: Not set up at this time

Approval of Minutes: Erik motions to approve. Matt seconds. Approved unanimously

Principals Report: Week 6 of digital learning. Elective is the hiccup not all kids are attending their elective/advisory but are doing a good job at core classes during the rest of the week. Having problems with time management. New schedule has been successful with longer transition times. Quality of work is a concern, especially in writing but they are excelling in visuals. 5th year in a row that HSCS has made ornaments for the national Christmas tree in Washington. One of the primary concerns is children with special needs and meeting those needs in an online forum. Teachers are most concerned about the social emotional concerns especially as we move into the darker months. Trying to interact online with kids and make it more real but it is a difficult process and Marion County is still a long ways away from meeting the current metrics for in person learning.

SKSD announced publicly that we will not reopen until February. We have planned to be distanced through the first semester for sure.

Music and Dance are the programs that are suffering the most. Visual art has been modified to work across the different platforms that individual kids have access to. Christina wanted the board to know that one of our strengths is being muffled due to circumstances. Sciences are also difficult due to limited access to supplies for all students.

Christina requested that the board put some content out via ClassDojo on our philosophy for maintaining the arts at HSCS.

Mandatory Reporting Training 2020-2021. Christina gave mandatory reporting training outlining that we as Charter School Board Members are mandatory reporters of suspected abuse. Emphasized that we are reporters not investigators. Christina highlighted multiple examples of what is considered possible abuse and when and how we should report. Training completed for 2020-2021 to make the board mandatory reporters.

Finance Committee:

Erik outlined that we are currently running right at budget with Covid expenses taking a decent portion of our budget. Good news is that there are some grants coming in that will help to offset those costs. None of these grants are in the budget as we have not received the money yet, but those grants will very much help to offset the costs associated with Covid/distance learning. Main stipulation of the grant money is that it can't be spent on personnel.

Erik highlighted the struggles that we have had with US Bank and their lack of customer service and how the management of our accounts is a potential problem for our OFA funding. We will be looking at other options to handle our finances. One of the main problems is that US Bank is fractured in how they work with accounts across different platforms within US Bank. We have two quotes coming in from different banks that have trustee services that we could transfer our funds to instead of US Bank. Hoping to move the trustee services to one of these banks and move payroll to a local financial institution.

No reports from other committees.

Annual Report: Written and working on getting it cleaned up by Matt, hoping to have it done by early next week. Due to the School District by October 31st
Motion to approve Annual Report as written. Motion to approve by Leslie, seconded by Erik. Approved unanimously.

Goal brainstorming session: Diversity has to be a focus of our goals for 2020-2021
What is the end goal that the board wants to achieve?
Christina asked if we are interested in equalizing our numbers of male and female

students. Erik spoke to wanting to look at our lottery process and focus more on ethnic diversity than male and female. Discussion ensued and the board wants to focus on informing minority communities to increase application from groups not traditionally represented in the student population. Board would like to move the student population in a direction that reflects the diversity of SKSD. We do need to recognize that there are some inherent limitations that HSCS has for some families i.e. no transportation services. However, we need to highlight that we do offer reduced and free lunch, bus passes, and other services.

Christina made the point that when we market to different groups we need to understand that different forms of marketing are not relatable to everyone on the same plane.

Marketing to a specific demographic is a good topic for the retreat.

Identify barriers to attending HSCS and what we can do to help alleviate some of those barriers.

Kelby made a point that the message often goes to parents first not kids.

Also need to highlight that the lottery is equal.

Topics for Board Retreat:

Christina brought up that she would like to have a payscale for employees and have that conversation and move to a two year step rather than a three year step. Erik agreed and wanted to make sure that everyone needs to understand the need for a balanced budget.

Alicea asked about the possibility of a staff pool for People Keep Allowance rather than it go back into the school budget.

Christina also brought up the principal's evaluation. Kelby mentioned we need to revisit questions under Covid circumstances.

Christina mentioned that she is still investigating the use of the building across the street. She is planning on a report to the board next month. Requested if the board is interested in using the building for PE/dance. First hurdle would be possible occupancy and zoning restrictions. Board agreed that we should explore it as a possibility.

Board Staff Retreat currently set for November 6th 09:00-12:00 Via Zoom.

Good of the Order:

Matt mentioned that his family recently purchased a 3D printer and thought it would be very cool for the school to have a couple. Christina said she already has a grant in place for a couple machines for the school.

Next Month's Meeting: November 19th 18:00

Two policies that need to be approved by the board by January 2021

All Students Belong

Bias incident complaint procedure

Motion to adjourn by Matt. Seconded Erik

Meeting adjourned 19:38