

Ariana Ames:

Aaron Bothner:

Hi, good evening. Can everybody hear me? Okay, great. Great. I'm having some technical issues on my end, but I'll go ahead and get us started here and then we can work from there. How are we looking towards quorum here? I know a couple of people said they're going to be running a little bit late.

Ariana Ames:

What was your question, Aaron?

Aaron Bothner:

Just curious how we are looking towards a quorum here.

Ariana Ames:

Two, three, four, five, six. We are at quorum right now.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. So we can go ahead and get started here. So good evening, everybody. Thanks for joining us this evening for our October 2020 board meeting. I think we'll go ahead and jump right in, maybe Jessica, starting with the mission and vision reflection, if we could, while I get tech sorted out here on my end.

Ariana Ames:

Wait, Aaron, before we start, if the 518 number is Kahari, then we're at quorum, but I'm not sure if it is.

Aaron Bothner:

Got it. Okay. All right. Kahari, is that you on 518?

Ariana Ames:

I'm almost positive it is, but I'm not sure.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay. And I know I'm getting some texts about the similar issue that I had. So we'll get this sorted out. No problem here. Okay, we can work on that. In the meantime, Jessica, are you able to get us started with a mission and vision grounding and reflection?

Jessica Boulet:

Yeah. So who we have tonight to do it is Tim. Is he here yet?

Tim Bryan:

He is.

Jessica Boulet:

Okay, hi, Tim.

Tim Bryan:

Do you want me to read the mission and vision and tell you what it means to me, or just do the latter?

Jessica Boulet:

You don't have to read it unless there's like a specific part you want to highlight. It's up to you.

Tim Bryan:

Okay. Yeah. So for me, the mission and vision is about creating opportunities for a group of fantastic and talented and amazing kids to develop and live to their full potential.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. Great. Thanks, Tim. Thanks, Jessica. And you gave me just enough time to get the agenda up here, so we're ready to go through that. So I think I see Michael has joined us. So I think, Ariana, for the minutes here, that gives us quorum to call the meeting to order. So we'll go ahead and do that. I will quickly review the agenda here and then we'll jump right in. And I do know, by the way, [inaudible 00:19:49] will be joining us probably in about 10 or 15 minutes, as will Constance as well.

Aaron Bothner:

So in the meantime, we'll go through our standard updates, committee updates and academic updates, beginning right after this. So we'll go through the K through 8, 9 through 11 education committee and a COVID update as well. We'll move from that into the finance committee, which there are two big items on the docket tonight. If you recall, we previewed at the September meeting. One is around the audit, which Shanta will take us through, and another is around the financial services RFP that was worked on over the past month, which Melissa will take us through. We have a quick update around the HR platform, and that'll wrap up that section.

Aaron Bothner:

Under external relations, we will get any general updates that we have there. LHA updates, have time our standard two updates that we will get from LHA. From there, we have time for public comments, and then we'll go through school operations. So that's the financial report, facilities, and the rooftop ribbon cutting. There are several items after that under board governance, including approving the minutes, an update from Jessica on the strategic initiatives, and then proposed charter revisions that we'll be discussing.

Aaron Bothner:

The last piece of that is a met support corp update that we need to vote on in terms of board members for that. That is an email that I forwarded to the board last Friday, if you want to have that pulled up in time for that conversation. Hopefully fairly straight forward. And then we'll have an executive session.

Aaron Bothner:

I believe that actually some of the, and Ariana, this is the update for you as well, some of the charter revisions under the board governance piece, we'll actually have to come back out of executive session to ultimately discuss and vote on. So however you need to work that with the minutes, let us know and Jessica and I will work with you to make sure that's all okay. Okay, great.

Aaron Bothner:

And that's it. Is there anything not on the agenda for the evening that anyone would like to be added or any questions about what we're going to be going through?

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. I'm not hearing any, so we'll move into the education updates. I think before we do, just to set the tone for us this evening here, a lot of people have done a lot of work over the past month around several votes that we're doing. We [inaudible 00:22:18] a lot of votes on the table this month and I think we've done a lot of work to get everyone up to speed on what those are going to be about. Nothing that we haven't previously discussed, so no new votes here, I believe, but just kindly ask two things of everybody, one, if we can ensure that we stay focused, both in our listening and our conversation around the topic at hand, that would be great. I encourage folks to keep a running list of items that we need to follow up on later, as I'm sure I'm sure people will have some, but I think it's important for this evening that we really get through all of this because the timing and the sequence is important coming out of tonight.

Aaron Bothner:

The second thing is for committee chairs and other updates, if you are able to just limit yourself to high level key updates and notes about any sort of next steps and how those will be followed up on that would be great. And I think that'll help keep us moving. And again, for committee chairs, if you need updates or if you need to handle something elsewhere, just share with everybody where that will be and we can handle it that way.

Aaron Bothner:

So thank you everybody for helping us work through this as productively as we can. And with that, I guess, Kurt, I will turn it over to you for the K through 8 update.

Kurt Davidson:

Great. Great. Good evening, everybody. I'll be as brief as possible. I know I say that every month and disappoint constantly, but I will try. So I have three major topics tonight to discuss around COVID, our strategic plan, and then some data. First off, just wanted to make sure the full board is aware, we did have our first COVID case two weeks ago of someone within the building. And throughout that, we've been partnering, myself, Tyra, Melissa, Keisha, Ariana, Karin, all of us have been partnering to make sure we're following all of the state and local rules with the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Situation Room, the testing and tracing, all the different entities that are out there.

Kurt Davidson:

We've ensured that the school is continually safe, have deep cleaned and cleaned more and done even more cleaning. Operations team has been doing an amazing job with all of that. And for the board, our

constant goal has been erring on the side of caution at all times, so making sure that we are being more conservative than we need to be.

Kurt Davidson:

And then, this week we've been back in action. And I think one of the biggest things I'm most proud of, we did go two days fully remote last week as a result of this just out of an abundance of caution, and we were able to seamlessly jump in, go fully remote. We did not have a significant drop in attendance. It was really seamless. And I think that's attributed to us starting off the school year being really strong with being remote first, followed by a hybrid being an added benefit to the picture there.

Kurt Davidson:

So we're back in action. Everything is going well. And I think the plan and all the great work of the planning committee ahead of time, and Melissa, both Tyra and my assistant principals and the team working hard on that really paid off and we're continuing to rock and roll.

Kurt Davidson:

The second major thing I want to discuss is the strategic plan that is in the agenda. And within the agenda, it's about 10 pages worth. We're not going to go through it all. We went in a little more depth with the education committee, but just the high level areas for y'all. I think the first thing that I wanted to highlight is our expansion of our partnership with the Lavinia Group this school year for ELA, recognizing that last year grades three through five were areas that we're most concerned. So we're working with them on executing a really strong curriculum.

Kurt Davidson:

And with that, really across the board, our emphasis is on depth over breadth, where we have this targeted arc of the year for teacher coaching and training, where we're emphasizing the importance of true intellectual preparation for teachers so that teachers can execute really strong lessons. And it really starts with the teacher. And we're doubling down on our hard work, being that we have strong retention of staff, really investing time and effort and pushing them in their craft to be better.

Kurt Davidson:

I think, and this connects to the other topic around data I want to talk about, is we're spending a lot of time on different data sources, so particularly the more frequent ones such as like exit tickets and writing samples within the work, because we're seeing with data that the higher stake assessments, such as our benchmarks like iReady, there's this struggle with validity because of kids taking these assessments at home, kids never necessarily taking an interim assessment, which we took today and yesterday on the computer for the first time ever, and the challenges associated with that, along with control challenge as being that, on a given day, 75% of our students or greater or at home, and there's a lot of variables that we can't control for the higher stakes assessments and we definitely want to make sure we're mentioning that.

Kurt Davidson:

And then the last thing I wanted to highlight is just, we're going all in with our eighth grade cohort this year with the eighth grade regents assessment for algebra, living environment and US history. So they are all taking high school level courses this year. A hundred percent of students are enrolled in that. And

our hope is there'll be a good number handing them off to Tyra who are ready to go as sophomores their freshman year. So that's the goal and we feel like this is the cohort to do it and we're feeling really strong there.

Kurt Davidson:

And then the last thing I just wanted to mention is around data. The data dashboard is updated and the link is in the agenda. We also went through this in a little more depth with the ed committee yesterday, but I think the two sections I would point your attention to are sheet one and sheet five. Sheet five has our attendance data. Just so everyone's aware, we're consistently near 90% at this point. The not as good news is that's lower than it was on a typical school year. The better news is, from everything that we're seeing, that is above what you're seeing in similar schools, particularly in communities like ours. And we are also, we can account for a hundred percent of our families a hundred percent of the time, which is a huge note.

Kurt Davidson:

And I know the inevitable question is, well, are they the same kids who are absent over and over, or is it just wide variability? We're noticing trends. There's a lot of students that are nearing that level of chronic absenteeism. So our team has been working really hard on accountability metrics for families, keeping in mind we're still in the middle of a pandemic and we have to approach this appropriately and with a lot of empathy. So we have plans for all of our families. Keisha has been working hard on providing hotspots for those who need it. We have 45 families which we are encouraging, if they feel safe, to opt into hybrid for quarter two, that we're doing targeted calls for to support there, the ones that we've seen that have had weaker than expected attendance there.

Kurt Davidson:

So we're definitely on it for those who are struggling. And then on tab one is the iReady data. So iReady data is our replacement for NWEA this year. And I just wanted to give a huge asterisk to the board around these high stakes assessments for this one, for the iReady, but also the interim assessments that we've been given today and yesterday that will be reported on next month. There is a wide level of variability, a wide level of reliability given that students are taking assessments at home on computers. We have our Go Guardian Big Brother system where we can control the tabs that they're on, but we don't have cameras in their house, nor do we want that. And we try to control for as much as we can, but the outside of the school building, there's only so much, in addition to the distractions that may be in place at home. And there is [inaudible 00:31:15] in addition to all the social emotional needs that there are for students and families right now.

Kurt Davidson:

So I actually was looking at an article earlier today. D.C. has conducted a study and it was their first data point showing that, in the city of DC, public schools, I think this was on Chalkbeat today, they were sharing that among kindergartners, that students are 21 point below where they were, where the cohort was last year among kindergartners, and they're seeing an almost double digit decrease of where they were last year citywide.

Kurt Davidson:

So I think there's studies that are coming out and showing around like the more formal assessments that are in place. We have to be careful with those and make sure we are using them. And there are factors

in place, but the better use for our day to day is the more authentic individualized checks for understanding in the classroom the exit tickets on a day to day and writing samples that we're seeing in ELA and history and even science classes.

Kurt Davidson:

So we want to give that note. The iReady data is not where we want it to be. It's where we expect it to be. I think one of the most promising areas is with our upper middle school. I think we're seeing, continuing to see from last year, for example, despite all of this, over 50% of our eighth graders are starting off the year at or above where they need to be in math. And that is really good validation for us to make that decision to provide algebra for every single eighth grader, being that despite a pandemic, despite lost learning, despite typical summer learning loss, still over 50% of our eighth graders are at or above where they should be when looking at the norm to nationwide.

Kurt Davidson:

So I think we're really setting ourselves up for success with the older grades there. And we're using this iReady data to drive our small group Fridays, but we're also keeping in mind that there are additional data sources there. And that is it from me. I'm sure there's questions.

Aaron Bothner:

Thank you, Kurt. Any pressing follow-up questions for Kurt this evening?

Jessica Boulet:

I know I already had a chance to ask questions when this was previewed, but I've thought of another one. Because as I was looking through everything before the meeting today, I was thinking, and this question is also-

PART 1 OF 6 ENDS [00:34:04]

Jessica Boulet:

Before the meeting today, was thinking... And this question is also for Tyra, for both of you to the extent that it applies. I saw that there was just a lot of variability between grades like you were pointing out Kurt, like eighth grade is doing very well. And I forget which... it was like third grade or something was do... was having like some real problems. And I was wondering if you had any thoughts on what would cause that variability between cohorts?

Kurt Davidson:

Yes. I think at this point we don't necessarily have big picture theories. We've gone through... Certain grade levels, we have a much stronger team in place. However, that may not be the result in this initial data here, being that a lot of this is around where we were over the summer and, and how things were set up.

Kurt Davidson:

So we don't... When it comes to the cohorts of students it's all over the place to be honest. And I think we're seeing the results of students who are for example, this year in seventh grade, their last year of

sixth grade teacher may have been the best teacher we had according to IAs and other data's there. But they are struggling a little... They struggled with this assessment here.

Kurt Davidson:

So part of this variability is we're struggling to determine the actual overarching trends. And we're trying to go at a more macro level for students and for our teachers. And that's what makes these bigger assessments more challenging right now. And that how much of it is computer skills, how much of it is students struggling and typing an essay that they're used to handwriting two pages. They're not used to typing two pages. There's a lot of variability there. So that's not a perfect answer to give you, but we haven't found those trends yet.

Kurt Davidson:

And I think Kamaria, just so... I see your question in the chat tier one, tier two, tier three that's RTI. So tier one is that's everybody. So those are supports that that's good general instruction. That's good core instruction for folks. Tier two are students that might need a little extra push but generally found within general instruction. Then tier three are students that we need significant interventions for. Again, keeping in mind, we do based upon data, other data points and data from last year, we don't necessarily believe our students, we have the sheer volume in tier three that is indicated here as well. Yeah.

Aaron Bothner:

Great, thanks Kurt. All right, we'll go ahead and move ahead to Tyra.

Tyra Williams:

Good evening, everyone. So I also did my strategic plan for the high school. Last year's strategic plan had six or three goals. And this year we have six, two of them are directly related to the fact that we have a senior class. So we're looking at data around those. And then one is an additional attendance data because of where our attendance is going as a high school.

Tyra Williams:

But just to reiterate the goals that many of you are familiar with, our first goal is around regions. And how many students are going to receive a mark of a 75... What percentage of our students mark of a 75 or better on the ELA regions and the math regions. We kept the same goal. We kept the goal at 60% of the students earning at least 75 in the ELA and 65% are in a 75 in mathematics.

Tyra Williams:

We are aware of the fact that the goal that we are being challenged with in terms of our renewables is 75% getting a 75. But being that we are living in this world of COVID, we're trying to also give you and to give ourselves realistic goals that we feel like we can attain. Because if you can imagine that Kurt's school is struggling, now imagine high school students who have the ability to tell their parents different things about school or find a way to say that they don't need to come in.

Tyra Williams:

And so, all of those challenges that because we were all in high school before that you could make your parents believe so that you can kind of manipulate them to do exactly what it is that you want to do. But

what I will say is that for everything that our students are throwing at us and all the challenges, we have a plan.

Tyra Williams:

So for regions, as you know we use the IAs as indicators to be able to tell and grow as each IA grows because the IAs are comprehensive. And so our benchmarks are that 50% of the students on IA 1 that goal of scoring a 75. And then as we go through the I 2, we'll move to the 55%, then 60%, then 65% hoping that we get better every time.

Tyra Williams:

We have not given off first IAs yet, that is scheduled for the first week in November. So we are hopeful, but cautiously optimistic about how our students are going to do, because I think that we have all hope that we will be in a different place with COVID when the new year started, but we're not.

Tyra Williams:

And so we're working really hard to get our kids up to speed for where they need to be go to. Goal two is always a progress goal and so, as Kurt kind of talked about in the lower school, we also have a goal for how our students are going to make progress. We also use the i-Ready and it's a baseline that meets the students exactly where they are and that grows then from there.

Tyra Williams:

So our goal is that 60% of the students will meet... reach their growth, target in i-Ready and reading. And the growth target is really individual to each particular student. So we are concerned because of what we saw and unlike Kurt, we did not test that home. We brought all of the students in the building to do testing because we wanted the data to be accurate, to build it and give us the most accurate results because some students just did not take the test seriously. And if you look at... I think it's tab five in my dashboard, it is the i-Ready data. And what it showed... Overarching is that the ninth and 10th graders did better in terms of being on or above grade level than the 11th and 12th grade.

Tyra Williams:

So sitting with my team and kind of talking it through with Karin and with the rest of my leadership team, what we really felt like in watching the students tests is that the 11th and 12th graders saw it as not high stakes and not a test that they had to do well on. They're well aware of the fact that they're taking SATs and PSATs and that they need at least five regions to graduate. So they've definitely been more concerned about that type of data than they are with this data, which for them mirrors the NWEA, it's kind of like, why are you giving us this? And so a lot of them did not take it seriously, although we really kind of pleaded for them to do so.

Tyra Williams:

But despite that, we still look at the data and took it very seriously because we don't know who are the students that are truly scoring fourth grade in high school or fifth grade in high school. And what we did was we did a revamp of our Friday schedule. And what we're in the process of creating at this point is periods where every teacher based on what they feel most strongly and are given a small group of students based on this i-Ready data that they are working with, the beauty of i Ready is that it gives the students their own individualized computerized plan called MyPath.

Tyra Williams:

And so, well we had our training on it. The recommendation from the trainer was that our students are working 45 minutes in reading or math on MyPath. What we decided to do for tier two and tier three students is have the teachers also teach a mini lesson based on what those students need. So it's not just working on a computer by yourself. It's also a targeted mini lesson, just a quick hit. And then they can go and work on MyPath.

Tyra Williams:

That's a tier two and even a tier three intervention because it's teaching along with allowing the kids to work in addition to what they're doing Monday through Thursday and their regular ELA and math classes, because we want to be able to give them the supports that they need so that we're growing them from where they are, as well as moving them along.

Tyra Williams:

Our special ed students, they have their own plan with the special education teachers, where they don't just use i-Ready data. They also use their IEP goals that they focus on and they teach directly to. But the students that we're concentrating on Friday are students who are not in a special population. They are not a student who is in ELL, and they're not a student who has an IEP, but they still are definitely showing up lag and being two to three grade levels behind or more in ELA and mathematics. So that's our tiered approach to support.

Tyra Williams:

Tier three... Goal three. Our goal three is to about credit accumulation. We kept it the same. What we've been doing and what has worked for us as a high school is that we have fast tracked our students when it comes to credit accumulation. So although you only need eight credits to be considered a sophomore, our students take at least 12 or 13 credits.

Tyra Williams:

Suppose we have credit accumulation goal of at least 11 credits, so we did it by the 11 times tables because you'd need 44 credits to practice. So 11 for freshman year, 22 for sophomore year, 33 junior year and 44 or more for senior year. And we've done really well with that goal. That's the only goal we were actually able to track was the predator accumulation goal, because the region's goal, we couldn't see if we met the goal based on COVID because it didn't take regions.

Tyra Williams:

So we'll go... A lot of students were exempt from regions. They did not take the regions and get a score in the spring. But in terms of credit accumulation, all of our students received over 90% of their credits with the exception of our freshman class. They just missed it and got 85. And that makes sense because they were right in the good place. As the school year was happening, they were turning a corner on their freshman year, and then COVID happened.

Tyra Williams:

And for a lot of our students that literally in school on Friday, March 13th, out of school on Monday, March 16th was a big hit for ninth graders. And a lot of them, we lost a lot of kids as we tried to pull

them back in. So we are working really feverishly because those are now 10th graders to get them on par.

Tyra Williams:

A lot of our students, because this is worth mentioning, although it's not a part of this particular... Well, it is part of the goals, but we have right now, I think 27 kids scheduled to come in tomorrow. Fridays are usually our fully remote day. But what we noticed is that students who did not accumulate credits in the FAPE complete their incompletes for credits, did not do in a semester two in the spring. We gave them an opportunity to do it in the summer. They did not take it no matter what the phone calls were, they just did not take advantage of it in the summer.

Tyra Williams:

And now we started off here in the fall and a lot of the students are still not doing this at home because most of them are remote. Heard about 75% of our kids are remote, fully remote. And about 25%, I would say right now are hybrid.

Tyra Williams:

So I our Director of School Culture just made individual phone calls to parents. We have four teachers. Well, three teachers and an assistant principal who are coming in tomorrow, meeting with those students in socially distanced groups. And then we're breaking up by subject to give those students support, to get those credits that they are not working hard to get.

Tyra Williams:

I just think that some of them are not understanding the major impact of not getting their credits right now. And the fact that the DOE is allowing us till January to allow students to fix incomplete... to get the credits for incompletes. That doesn't mean they're going to get the exemption, but they aren't able to not use these credits and have to take the class completely over for credit.

Tyra Williams:

So we've given the students pizza. We're trying everything there for lunch. We're trying everything we can to get them in and to get them motivated to get their credits, which is directly aligned to this credit accumulation goal. Because we know that we have students who have not been doing that both for is around graduation rate.

Tyra Williams:

We set the goal at 90% of the students graduating with their cohort. We believe that we're going to exceed that goal and be somewhere around 95% because we just have two students who are really on the radar for we're wondering if we can get them to graduation, but we're really trying very hard to make sure that they do get through graduate.... to get through and to graduate from high school.

Tyra Williams:

Goal five is our college acceptance rate goal. And we set this goal with a hundred percent of our students getting accepted to at least a two year college, but obviously striving for them to get accepted to four year colleges or universities as well.

Tyra Williams:

At this point, and I know I was supposed to present one data about college. It's just early right now. So we really don't have any college data to present on. I do know that our average GPA for the senior class, our average weighted GPA is a 3.01. So pretty solid average GPA for this senior class. The unweighted GPA is I think a 2.97. But the students are right smack-dab in the middle of filling out their common application, trying to apply for college.

Tyra Williams:

I think at the top of my PowerPoint because I did include a PowerPoint. I think it's page 20, mine is. It talks a little bit about some college updates. We did have FASFA Day. 50% of our scholars and their families attended the event. It was a huge turnout to get support with being able to fill out their FASFA applications. Not all of them have completed it. So my Director of College Career Advising is following up with families to give them that additional support. Shout out to the ops team for really helping us to make that happen.

Tyra Williams:

We also had SAT Day. 47% of our scholars came to take the SAT for a second time. We attribute that low number to the fact that it was the day before that we informed all of our families, that we had a positive COVID case. And because of that, families were reluctant to bring this to have their students come into the school and participate in SAT and PSAT Day.

Tyra Williams:

But as you know, you can take the SAT and PSAT a number of times throughout the school year. So we sent our parents the vouchers that they can use, so the students can take it for free and the upcoming dates for SAT. So that everyone has the opportunity to take it again, as well as the PSAT for our 11th graders who also took it.

Tyra Williams:

And then the last thing that I... The big bucket that I would like to report on is our i-Ready data. I think I alluded to it before, but it's worth mentioning it again. The results just were not good. And so I talked a little bit about some of the things that we're doing. But we also looked at our ELL Reading and ELL Math data, our SPED Reading and our SPED Math data and all of them numbers are pretty low.

Tyra Williams:

We are doing a lot of targeted things to move that data in the right direction. So that I think probably it's probably 10 weeks at this point because we're testing i-Ready every 14 weeks. But probably at the 10 or 11 week points, we will test again and hopefully see much better numbers than this because we are doing targeted things to move that data along. Questions? Concerns?

Aaron Bothner:

Great. Thank you, Tyra. Any questions for Tyra on her update for the board? Okay. I know that there is... This is kind of our first round of data this year, and we're continuing to flash out our... How we're going to look and govern as a board around our first graduating class this year, which is exciting amidst everything else.

Aaron Bothner:

And so I would suggest that as you're thinking of this and going through the materials and thinking about this kind of between months, you share any thoughts that you might have with Ellen, who I will turn it over to you momentarily to talk about the Ed committee and we can work from there as folks are digesting all this. So thank you, Kurt, Tyra for the thorough updates. And I think Ellen, that brings us to you.

Ellen Chen:

Great, thank you guys so much. So as we know that next year, we are going through another charter renewal with our first graduating class. And given the current situation, data assessment is very ambiguous. So I would like to ask the board as well as Dan to see if there is any sort of resource or material on the following.

Ellen Chen:

One, how will the renewal process change if it will change at all? Two, how will... I will also be assessing the data, given the fact that it's really... It's not accurate data. And three is, what if we have network with other charter schools, What are they doing? How are they seeing these academic data and see if any of the charter schools have gone through a renewal either this year or will we go in through a renewal next year?

Ellen Chen:

I think that's the key right now is to gather as much information as possible to be ready just in case. There could be some advantage in knowing how the data will be assessed by our authorizer as key. And I do continue to encourage you guys to be familiar with the academic data dashboard. Yeah. Thank you.

Aaron Bothner:

Thanks Ellen. That's very helpful. And I think, yeah, I would certainly encourage everybody to continue to discuss with their networks. Sort of, I think the question is in lieu of, the standard state metrics we're all used to. How our authorizer is going to be? How's the authorizer going to be looking at this? How are other schools developing systems to fill in the gaps? And so it's just a constant dialogue. And I appreciate the note Ellen, to keep us all kind of focused on that. Likewise, Kurt, Tyra, I want to thank your teams.

Aaron Bothner:

I spent a lot of time at the dashboard this month. I already feel like I have a more holistic view of our performance and really look forward to being able to track some of this stuff over time and develop this out. So, didn't want you to think that no questions meant it was not looked at extensively over the month. So thank you.

Aaron Bothner:

Any questions for Ellen before [inaudible 00:55:23] All right. Ariana, I think we have you for the COVID update. Let's see.

Ariana Ames:

Sorry, I was muted. Originally, I was just going to share information about the COVID closure, but Kurt sort of reviewed what's happening at the school already during his time. So I won't belabor the point.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, okay. Any other questions for the academic or around the academic or COVID update for anybody on the line? Okay. Hearing none that will bring us to the finance committee. Shanta.

Shanta Pressley:

Good evening. All. Can you hear me? Yes. Okay, perfect. So this evening the finance committee... We had a very busy month and this evening we're going to be asking for three votes.

Shanta Pressley:

One is to finalize the audit. We want to ratify the vote from last month and go ahead and allow me to approve and submit the audit before the November 1st deadline. The second is to get your approval on the financial services company. And the third will be to authorize the finance committee to review and approve the HR benefits platform.

Shanta Pressley:

And Melissa will take you through the information for both the financial companies and the HR platform. And I will give you a high-level update of the audit. So we had our finance committee meeting last week. The audit came back pretty much clean. There were no significant deficiencies to note.

Shanta Pressley:

There were a few outstanding items that should have been settled this week. I will do the necessary follow-up tomorrow with the finance team and the auditors. But we are comfortable to go ahead and approve for me to sign and submit the audit report. It is included in your agenda. Please feel free to review if you have not. And if there are no questions, I will like to put... Get, prepare everyone for the vote. Any questions?

Shanta Pressley:

Okay. Hearing none. Oh, [Jessie 00:58:12]

Jessica Boulet:

Thanks Shanta. I was just curious when you said it came back pretty much clean. What that meant?

Shanta Pressley:

Sure. So there was a recommendation from the auditors that an adjustment be made to... I forget the line item, but the finance team explained to them that the time that the amount came in they allocated it to the previous year. And then when you plug in the numbers for the current year, when you pretty much net it, it was like a really insignificant number.

Shanta Pressley:

So it wasn't like a major thing that needed to be re-adjusted or restate it. So we agreed with the auditors and didn't have any issues with that.

Jessica Boulet:

Cool. And then one more question, which is just, I know that since we got different auditors this year, I just wondered how you felt about them in comparison to the extent that I don't know if you were there for the last audit, but just to the extent that you can compare at all, if you were happy with them.

Shanta Pressley:

So, satisfied with their service, very detailed, and they didn't hold anything back, both on and off a call with the finance team. And I was not a part of the audit process last year, so don't have anything to compare it to. But I would definitely recommend using the service in the future.

Jessica Boulet:

Thanks. That's all my questions for that.

Shanta Pressley:

No problem. Any other question?

Aaron Bothner:

Thanks Shanta. Just before we vote, I figured it would make sense if Mary Beth, Brent, or I think Melissa worked on this as well. If you have anything to add or anything to note the board might consider before we actually do a formal vote on this.

Mary Beth Rousseau:

Hi, this is Mary Beth. The only thing I would like to say is that it was a pleasure working with the new auditors this year with MMB. I think that was an excellent choice going with that firm to perform the audit. They are very knowledgeable, very helpful. It was a pleasure working with them. And so I just want to mention that I would definitely highly continuing to stay with them because they do... They're very knowledgeable. And it was noting that the adjustment that Shanta explained that was something that the prior auditor did not catch and did not help us resolve. And so that's why that kind of rolled forward into this year. So just a big thumbs up to MMB.

Aaron Bothner:

Two for two. Thanks Mary Beth. Brent, Melissa, or of course, anybody else who was a part of this process that I missed, that has something to note?

Melissa Alston:

I don't have anything to note. Thank you.

Brent Elliot:

This is Brent. Neither do I. Thank you. Great.

Aaron Bothner:

That's it from me Shanta. Thanks.

Shanta Pressley:

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Thank you all for your comments. Thanks Aaron. So at this time, I move that we accept the audit report and allow me as treasurer to sign and submit the order report to the necessary parties.

Tim Bryan:

I second that.

Shanta Pressley:

Are you ready for question? Aaron?

Aaron Bothner:

Approve. Or what's the formal thing?

Jessica Boulet:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Like you're the very first lawmakers, like it's 1700 something.

Aaron Bothner:

[crosstalk 01:02:14] Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Thanks. Kamaria?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

[Jessie 01:02:21] ?

Jessica Boulet:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Anuj?

Anuj Khatiwada:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Michael ?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Khari? Khari? And Ellen?

Ellen Chen:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

And I'm not sure who the 347 number is.

Ellen Chen:

That was me Shanta.

Shanta Pressley:

Oh, thank you. All right, thank you. So the audit, I will do the necessary followup and make sure we have that submitted by the deadline. Thank you all so much for your votes. And I will turn it over to Melissa.

Melissa Alston:

Good evening again, everyone. So the first thing to go over on the agenda is the financial services. So Shanta was absolutely correct that the finance company has been very busy with myself, making sure that we do our due diligence to figure out what is the best financial company for moving forward.

Melissa Alston:

So we sent out an RFP on September 28th to the nine different vendors. We received five proposals back. We interviewed every single company that provided us a proposal. So, if you look at this is where I'm at here. This is NDA packet, it's called the financial RFP tracker. And this kind of broadly highlights the different companies.

Melissa Alston:

The school needs/ sample requests are what are the different things we put into the request for proposal. And then you can see with the ledger then, you can see who responded or responded partially or fully, just to give you a broad overview.

Melissa Alston:

CSBM is probably one of the biggest players in the space. They have lots of clients, lots of clients in the charter world and others. We thought they interviewed well. One of the biggest things that we decided was a reason why we weren't going to recommend this company was because their total cost was pretty high. And then they had additional costs throughout the contract that would potentially bring that number up yearly.

Melissa Alston:

MMJ is... we also thought they interviewed very, very well. There were super engaging, super knowledgeable, but they only have one charter school client currently. So we decided with what we need right now as a financial company, they were just not equipped to handle.

Melissa Alston:

Post-Ed is another key player in this space. They have tons of experience. Mr. Pasek also has recommended them. He has worked with them in the past in many capacities, and they come very well recommended. And they were just lately out shined by the company that we're going to recommend tonight based on the team and capacity of their company [Reese and Magaril 00:01:05:58] don't know how to say that. They're a very, very, very, very small company. It's just two of them.

Melissa Alston:

So we just decided that the scope of the job and where we need to go, it's just not conducive to having two people. We need to be able to speak to many people and have lots of support. So we just decided that they just weren't in the running unfortunately.

Melissa Alston:

So the company that we are recommending tonight is 4th Sector Solutions. The company really came across as doing their research. They really thought about the process, what it's going to take to take this on. They have a lot of different people that have come together to really make this happen. So just to start before they even answered the RFP, they requested we're the only company that requested a meeting prior to submitting the RFP, which stood out for us.

Melissa Alston:

And then during the interview process, they had all of their different important constituents on the call, which a lot of the other companies didn't do. So, and then they thought of things like, "Well, there's Thanksgiving break and there's this. And there's Christmas break" during these important times of having a new company come in and no other company thought about this either. So there were just things that really put them on the top of the list, because it was very clear that they were invested before even engaging in anything formal. They were really invested in the success of this time period. So this is... these are pretty much the reasons why we decided that we wanted to go ahead and put 4th Sector up for a recommendation to the board to approve for our new financial services company.

Aaron Bothner:

Thank you, Melissa. And I would just note for the board that as someone with kind of a front row seat to this, I think...

PART 2 OF 6 ENDS [01:08:04]

Aaron Bothner:

And I would just note for the board that as someone with kind of a front row seat to this, I think Shanta, Melissa and Pasek did a very thorough vetting of all this, were very thoughtful in the process, and so I want to thank them for putting that forward. Kind of thinking through this in three buckets, myself, what is the set of services, what is the cost and how comfortable did Melissa, Shanta and the finance committee get with each one of these in order to make a decision? And it sounds like fourth sector checks those three boxes. I think that direct recommendations from folks who'd used them too, and that checked all the boxes we needed to. So mainly just want to thank the folks I mentioned, and everyone who worked on this for a thorough and thoughtful analysis of this.

Jessica Boulet:

I'll just chime in also that I love this chart and the overview is super helpful and it was just very thoughtful and really informative, like for me, from my perspective. So thank you so much for that, I loved it.

Kamaria Brisseau:

I just want to add a quick note because I think it's important during these times, is that while fourth sector checked the boxes, they're great, they're skillful, they're also extremely diverse. Just on the zoom call alone, they had multiple folks on the call, so I think it's a good representation of what we want working with us.

Shanta Pressley:

Yes. That's a great point Kamaria and yeah, big shout out to the finance committee because you guys really came through and showed up for the three days that we did the interview. So thank you all for that.

Aaron Bothner:

Does anyone have questions for Melissa, questions about the process, anything at all before we would proceed to vote on this?

Aaron Bothner:

Okay. So what the vote would effectively be is I think, authorizing me to work with Melissa and council to finalize the contract with fourth sector, engage fourth sector by November 1st. That's it actually. So proposed, it would authorize myself to work alongside Melissa and Susan to finalize the fourth sector contract and sign it.

Michael Dorrie:

I Second.

Aaron Bothner:

Jessica?

Jessica Boulet:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Shanta?

Shanta Pressley:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Kamaria? Is that aye?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Yes, aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Thank you. Anuj?

Anuj Khatiwada:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Thank you. Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Kahari? Okay, we'll skip that. Ellen?

Ellen Chen:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. Any objections and any abstentions?

Aluta Khanyile:

Aluta also here with an eye as well.

Aaron Bothner:

Oh there you are Aluta. Okay, thank you. Thank you for chiming in. Okay great. Okay, so this motion passes, thank you again to everybody for their hard work on this. This was a lot of time in the past month, so well done. Okay. Melissa is going to, I think, provide an update on the HR platform. Just to clarify, this isn't a vote on the contract itself. This is a vote on what we're going to be doing, I think, over the next month. So I'll let Melissa fill you in on that.

Melissa Alston:

Yes. So thank you. I've been working with the new company. So just to reiterate, I'm not sure if I said this to the full board last time, or just pieces of the board. So I apologize if this is redundant, but Little Bird was bought out by TriNet. So now we are moving forward with TriNet not Little Bird, which is who you all were hearing before. So that was the familiar name, now it's TriNet. So with TriNet, it has taken a long time to kind of get this up and running and get an actual quote. There are many pieces, they asked for a lot of things. They are very thorough, so we have only had these documents in our hands since last Tuesday. And having these documents be over a hundred pages to review, Shanta rightfully so headed the idea that we needed more time to look at this, and more time to ensure that we're not rushed and were thorough in this process to ensure that we're getting everything that we need.

Melissa Alston:

So we wanted this to go up for a vote tonight, but we have decided that it is in the best interest of us all that we ask that the board allows the finance committee to kind of dig into these documents a little bit more. So that is the vote that we're asking for tonight.

Melissa Alston:

What that looks like is we have already shared the documents with the finance committee, all the details, and there are five different packets and different services.

Melissa Alston:

Overall a comparison chart was already made. So it's easy for everyone to kind of see where we are right now, where we're going and any gaps. The gaps are being explored right now. And this is something that Aaron requested that we do a gap analysis, so we can see where we are. The gap analysis is mostly done. The items have been identified that are part of the gaps, but I'm going to be working next week with the leadership team in the school to kind of start figuring out, just on the preliminary level, how this will look going forward and who needs to be involved and what other escalation that needs to happen. So that is just the only piece that's left and that'll be ready next week. And then all the documents will be ready for the finance committee at that point to review.

Shanta Pressley:

Right. And in addition to that, given us the additional time, we'll allow our new financial service company to help us through this process as well, to take a look to ensure that everything is properly laid out for the best comfort of the school and staff and teachers.

Melissa Alston:

Thank you. Yes. But overall, we will be getting so many more services and things will be able to be streamlined so much more than they are. Right now, things are working, obviously, but they're very separate and trying that kind of checks a lot of the boxes for things that we already do, but we do very piecemeal. So this will be good for us.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay. So this is simply a delegation to the finance committee to work with Melissa, to vet this over the next month. In large part, as we look at the consolidation of this into the future, cost is sort of the biggest question mark here and how it all fits together. So, I think that's why this is headed this direction. Any questions about that? All right. Then, so proposal to delegate the finance committee to work on the TriNet proposal with Melissa in order to have a vote at the November board meeting.

Anuj Khatiwada:

I Second.

Aaron Bothner:

Thanks Anuj. Jessica?

Jessica Boulet:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Thanks. Shanta?

Shanta Pressley:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Kamaria?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Anuj?

Anuj Khatiwada:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Kahari? Ellen?

Ellen Chen:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

And Aluta?

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye. Did you hear me?

Aaron Bothner:

Yes. Thank you. Thank you everybody.

Aluta Khanyile:

Okay, great.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great, so that will be a vote at the November board meeting. Thank you. That wraps up finance committee. Shanta, did you have anything you wanted to add in closing?

Shanta Pressley:

No, that's all. Thank you all for your time tonight.

Aaron Bothner:

Great, thanks Shanta. That brings us next to External Relations. Just a general update here, as everyone knows that we are working to get that committee off the ground, and I know that there's been a lot of background work going on there. Aluta, I don't know if you have anything in particular you want to highlight at this time, if not that's okay. But we look forward to the things to come in the next coming months.

Aluta Khanyile:

Yes. Can you hear me?

Aaron Bothner:

Yes.

Aluta Khanyile:

Okay, wonderful. So for the External Relations committee, with the generous support of fellow board members, we've come up with a mission and a statement for the committee, and that's the only update that I have for you right now.

Aaron Bothner:

Great, great, that's good to hear. And I know everyone has been working with Jessica over the past month to tie all of this together into some more well synthesized board governance, and so we'll be getting an update on that later, so thank you Aluta. That brings us to the LHA update, so we'll start with the enrollment update, Kisha?

Kisha Perez:

Good evening everyone. This month there's no major big changes. We're still waiting to enroll a kindergartner, a third grader and a ninth grader. That's pretty much it for today.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. And same question as last month. Just, it looks like a very healthy enrollment pipeline. Any concerns at any grade levels at this point for you?

Kisha Perez:

No.

Aaron Bothner:

Great. Okay. Okay. Thank you so much. All right. And Ariana, the 30-60-90?

Ariana Ames:

No major updates here. Just continuing to work on the wind-down plan, which you all will be talking about a little bit later.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. Thank you. Okay. That brings us to public comments. Are there any members of the public who are with us at this time? I do not see any here. Okay. Okay so hearing no members of the public, we will move into the school operations update, so Mary Beth with the September financials.

Mary Beth Rousseau:

Great, thank you. So looking at the September financials, everything has remained strong on the balance sheet. The current assets are 8.8 million, and with current liabilities of 1.6 million, gives us a current ratio of 5.65, that's very strong. And then our total assets of 11 million and total liabilities of just under 2.7 million gives us a debt-to-asset ratio of .24, so it's very, very strong. Cash on hand this month was just under 8.2 million with \$27,000 a day of expenses that leaves us with 300 days cash on hand. And then looking at the debt service coverage ratio, that ratio is actually 4.04. So between the cash on hand and the debt service coverage ratio, the school's exceeding the bond covenants. Looking at the summary of the statement of activities, the budgeted enrollment was 676 and at the most recent district billing, the number of enrolled scholars is 688, so that means we will have a surplus. Right now we're looking at a surplus in the revenues and year-to-date revenues are 3.5 million.

Mary Beth Rousseau:

And with a year-to-date total expenses of 2.5 million, it gives us a budgetary basis of \$1 million at the moment and our budgeted surplus with the adjustments we made to the additional spend that was the amended budget from last month, we're actually showing a budgeted surplus of just a little bit negative of 38,000. The gap budgeted surplus is a little bit more negative, and that's just due to non-cash adjustments.

Mary Beth Rousseau:

Does anybody have any questions on the financials? Everything was pretty much straight forward and pretty much where the school typically would be at this point during the school year. We didn't have any concerns.

Aaron Bothner:

Shanta, any further comment on this from finance committee?

Shanta Pressley:

Yes, I was coming on just to speak, just to let everyone know the amended budget that was presented last month, everything has been properly updated and noted. So finance committee recommend that we approve the report for the month.

Aaron Bothner:

I'll second that.

Shanta Pressley:

Ready for question, Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Kamaria?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Jessie?

Jessica Boulet:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Anuj?

Anuj Khatiwada:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Aluta?

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Constance?

Constance Barnes-Watson:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

Ellen?

Ellen Chen:

Aye.

Shanta Pressley:

And Kahari? Kahari? All right. Assuming tech difficulties. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Awesome. Thank you Mary Beth and Brent.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. Thank you. Monica, facilities.

Monica Rivera:

Hi everybody. Rooftop update. We're inching closer and closer to hopefully getting that Certificate of Occupancy. This past month we actually did pass the necessary inspections, which was the construction inspection and the Place of Assembly inspection. Those were the two hardest things to schedule and we finally have them. And I want to give a big shout out to Melissa and Kisha and the team because we were surprised, for one, one was canceled and they showed up anyway, right, so the team handled it and it was amazing. So we did pass those two inspections. We're currently waiting for the fire department to approve our fire safety and evacuation plans.

Monica Rivera:

We do have to do a test on the emergency lights and run the generator to make sure that the emergency lights up in the gym and the entire building work. The delay on that has been our vendor, which is Huntington power. They had no availabilities until the end of the month, and now we're just waiting to get on their schedule. So on our end, we think we have everything ready, except for this emergency lights, and then they might surprise us, but I don't see anything else that I'm aware of that we have not done. So it's just a sit and wait.

Monica Rivera:

We do have the certificate of completion from the contractors. There are two punch list items that are pending, so we will not sign off on that until those two punch list items are done. But once that is complete, we will sign off and release the final payment to the contractors. We should have, again, pending any surprises with permitting and the Certificate of Occupancy, we should be able to provide an updated budget by the November board meeting. So far the project is still on budget, Aaron, not too far off from the numbers we had provided last month. Any questions on the rooftop?

Aaron Bothner:

Well, first of all, congratulations on passing both those inspections. Those are big.

Monica Rivera:

That's all Kisha and Melissa. I would not have been able to do it without the two of them.

Aaron Bothner:

Great, great. And then I'm sorry if I missed this, is there a timeline on the FDNY inspection?

Monica Rivera:

I actually ask daily our expediter to see if there're any updates. We have not received anything from the FDNY, so as soon as I find out, I will let everybody know at this point.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay. Great.

Monica Rivera:

One thing, we did have to renew our air pollution policy. I was under the impression that it was just something for the construction, but we actually did review the lease that the school has with the LLC. And it is a required item on the lease, so we did have to renew that. So that was \$11,000 that we did have to renew for September. So just put it on your radar, that every September we do have to continue to renew this policy.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay. Thank you.

Monica Rivera:

Those were my updates.

Aaron Bothner:

Thanks for flagging the insurance piece. Any questions on facilities? Okay, great. So we'll continue to keep the ribbon cutting here as a placeholder, because one day that's going down. Once it's open, we'll see where I think the world is at, at that point, and we'll figure out the best forum to introduce it to the world as we've been saying all along. So thank you, Monica, Melissa, and Kisha for staying on top of this and ensuring that we have a beautiful gym to provide our scholars with. Okay. That wraps up school operations and brings us to board governance. Jessica, you want to kick us off with the approval of the September meeting minutes?

Jessica Boulet:

Yes, I do. So thank you everybody for taking a look at those. I saw that I think any questions were all addressed, so I will just go ahead and move to approve minutes from September.

Shanta Pressley:

Second.

Jessica Boulet:

Okay. And a roll call. Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kamaria?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Anuj?

Anuj Khatiwada:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Aaron?

Aaron Bothner:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

And I totally missed who seconded, so I'm probably just going to call someone twice. Constance?

Constance Barnes-Watson:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Shanta?

Shanta Pressley:

Aye. It was me that second it.

Jessica Boulet:

Thanks. Great. And then Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kahari? Ellen?

Ellen Chen:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

And Aluta?

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Awesome. All right, I think that's everyone. And then we can move on to board strategic initiatives and proposed charter revisions. Let me start with the charter revisions, just because that's straightforward. You all have in your emails, in your met emails, finally, today, a complete red line that the governance committee wants to bring to the board as of now. And that email highlights for you basically the main changes that we're proposing, which is most of the substances. Definitely take a look at all of it, but it's all pretty small, except for the descriptions of the committees we did a lot of work on this month.

Jessica Boulet:

Really three major things that are happening with the committees. One is that we are recreating the executive committee and separating it out from the governance committee again. The reason that we had chosen to not have a separate executive and governance committee in our everyday operations is because the executive committee required a minimum number of trustees. And that's just not an issue for us anymore because we have a lot of trustees. In addition to that, functionally, we saw a need for the executive committee to come back again and do a lot of executive things, just from a logistical standpoint it made sense. For the governance committee, what this means essentially is that there's going to be a separation of roles. The executive committee is going to be more executive, take on a lot of those interim vote making responsibilities, as we may need as a board. And the governance committee is going to be more devoted, strictly to traditionally governance things which includes considering policies and making recommendations on internal board governance.

Jessica Boulet:

And that includes, and something we're adding into the bylaws, kind of a coordination role for making sure the strategic goals happen. And that process about considering the strategic goals has already started with committee chairs and it is finally wrapping up. That is going to be an important topic on the governance committee's first separate meeting from the executive committee upcoming this month, just to let everybody know. And then the other two things in the bylaws, are finance committee, there's a few additions that the finance committee should make sure to take a look at and everyone else should also just look in there and make sure that it all makes sense. And the external relations committee, like Aluta said, we had some great conversations about how we're going to make this committee sort of execute on the goals that it was intended to based on our conversations in June and what that looks like in the bylaws.

Jessica Boulet:

So everybody should definitely take a look at that and think to yourself, is this what I had in mind in June? Is there anything that's missing or something that seems a little off. And then for these bylaws, what the process is, is please take a look, get back to me, you can text, you can email with any questions you have. We can always jump on a phone call.

Jessica Boulet:

And then once we have comments from everyone, there will be a governance committee meeting where it's finalized and workshopped, and everybody will have it for the actual vote next month.

Jessica Boulet:

That's the charter revisions. Again, no vote this month, but the strategic initiatives, the strategic goals, I think I covered that in the charter revision discussion.

Aaron Bothner:

Clarify that the charter revision is a separate conversation. All this is under board strategic initiatives.

Jessica Boulet:

Yes. The charter revision is separate, but I think I covered my personal goals, the governance committee's goals for the strategic goals, kind of wrapped up in there. One other thing to flag for the governance committee is that people who are on the executive committee and people who are on the governance committee don't have to be the same person. So if you are currently on the governance committee, give some thought to whether you're going to be on both of those committees or only one in the future. Governance committee does require at least three trustees. But if you have any questions about what that will look like going forward, I'm happy to talk about it as well with anyone. I think that's it for me. Aaron, did you have any clarifying things that I might have missed?

Aaron Bothner:

No. Just to thank all the committee chairs for working with Jessica over the past month. Just to really lay this out while we've had a lot going on addressing the immediate future in this school year, there's all of these pieces that need to continue happening for the future of the school beyond this year. And I know it takes having a set of eyes on that tick to keep it moving forward. So thank you to everyone for doing that and look forward to hopefully getting the updated bylaws done at the November meeting.

Jessica Boulet:

Yeah. Thank you, Aaron. I want to second that. I actually really just absolutely enjoyed touching base with everybody and chatting with everyone and hearing what you all had to say. And the good news is everybody seems to be really mostly on the same page and really enthusiastic about moving forward. So I think it's going to be great.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. Thank you Jessica and all. The next thing on the agenda is the proposed charter revisions. As I mentioned, I think we're going to move that to after executive session. I think there's actually not much to say about it at the moment. So we will come back to that at a later point and we'll move into the met support corp. So for reference here, this is the entity that owns the building itself. I'm going to kind of not get that quite right. What is on the table for today is if you'll recall, due to some leadership

changes over the summer, the board of the school had to vote on a new board for one of those entities. There is another entity which also needs a board to be voted on.

Aaron Bothner:

That is on the table for today. We had mentioned this previously as something that we needed to do, and I'll walk through who they say is, this was also shared with the board as well. Just so folks know in November, there's going to be some more things happening, just some annual approvals and changes and disclosure requirements I think that will need to be made. So, know, that this is part one of a conversation, but we do need to just nominate a new set of directors for one of the other entities so that those folks can work with Melissa over the next month to finalize some documentation and resolutions for the full school board that's on with us tonight to vote on at the November meeting. So this is almost all procedural. And in speaking with Melissa, there's a suggested grouping of individuals that we had discussed about nominating to the director positions for this entity.

Aaron Bothner:

This is reflective of what we have done historically, which has just been a combination of board of trustee members, as well as operations leadership from the school just to ensure that all the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted there. So the group that's being suggested here would be myself, Kisha and Melissa from the operations team, and then Shanta as a treasurer, and Michael as one of the facility's committee members. So the vote is just simply to appoint those folks to the directorship of the support corp and that at the November meeting, like I said, we'll have another set of procedural things to be voting on that we'll be getting from council at that point. So let me stop there. Questions about what I just stepped through before we would hope to vote on that this evening?

Aaron Bothner:

Okay. Okay. And I'll just note for any trustee members who are interested in more background on that, that's about a five-year history or so there at least. Let me know, and I can point you in the right direction. So, Melissa, did you have anything else before I do the official vote call there?

Melissa Alston:

No, that was everything. Thank you.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. Great. Okay. So, then two votes here, I guess the first vote is to put the slate forward and have one vote on the slate versus voting on each person individually.

PART 3 OF 6 ENDS [01:42:04]

Aaron Bothner:

[crosstalk 01:42:03] Okay, great. I got Jessica seconded. So Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Kamaria.

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Anoush.

Anoush:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Constance.

Constance Barnes-Watson:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Shanta.

Shanta Pressley:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Sophia.

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Kahari. (silence) Ellen.

Ellen Chen:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Aluta.

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. And then the next vote... Jessica, should this come... Since I'm included in the slate here, should this not come from me?

Jessica Boulet:

I hear what you're saying. I move to approve the slate of people that Aaron listed previously.

Aaron Bothner:

For reference, that's Aaron, Keshia, Melissa, Shanta, and Michael.

Ellen Chen:

I second. It's Ellen.

Jessica Boulet:

Thanks, Ellen. All right. Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kamaria?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Anoush.

Anoush:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Constance.

Constance Barnes-Watson:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Aaron.

Aaron Bothner:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Shanta?

Shanta Pressley:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kahari. (Silence) I think Ellen was the second. And Aluta.

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Great, thanks everyone.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay, great. Great. Thank you, everyone. Okay. That brings us to the end, or rather, momentarily to the end of the governance section. Again, we'll return to that proposed charter revision section after exec session. So if nobody here has anything further, we will make our transition to exec session. And just so all are aware, there will be, I think, a material discussion that occurs after exec session. So for those who would like to join and be a part of that, you can go ahead and remain in this Zoom. We will otherwise make transition to the exec Zoom that we'll be using, as we've done in the past. Ellen is the one who is setting that up. Details are in your chat and I believe also in your Inbox as well. It is 8:03. If we could get into there by let's say 8:10, give folks a chance to use the bathroom, et cetera. And we'll pick up there at 8:10. So, in addition to the board, I would invite Tyra, Kurt, Melissa, and Dan to join us in exec session.

Aaron Bothner:

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Okay, great. So we'll make our way there. We'll speak with that group there. And then again, we'll return here for the remainder of the open public session of the meeting. Ariana, are you able to just flip me control again?

Ariana Ames:

You're all set.

Aaron Bothner:

You're all set? Okay, great. Great.

Ellen Chen:

Before we drop, Dan, can you please paste your email into the chat?

Dan Pasek:

I'm actually on my phone, Ellen. So I've just asked Melissa Alston to send me the Zoom for the next [inaudible 01:45:49]. Sorry about that.

Ellen Chen:

No problem. Thanks.

Jessica Boulet:

I also think we didn't actually formally move to executive session.

Aaron Bothner:

Yes. So, I move that we move to executive session inviting-

Jessica Boulet:

Second.

Aaron Bothner:

... the guests, Kurt, Tyra, Melissa and Dan.

Jessica Boulet:

Second.

Aaron Bothner:

Dan, is Nora joining us?

Dan Pasek:

Nope, just me. She's got another board meeting. I'm sorry, Aaron.

Aaron Bothner:

Nope, no problem. I just wanted to make sure we reflected it in the minutes. Thank you. Jessica, is that a second? All those in favor?

Meeting Members:

Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Any opposition?

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Aluta, are you opposed or in favor?

Aluta Khanyile:

I'm aye. Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Aye. Okay. Thank you. Thank you. Sorry, the technology's being silly. And then-

Aluta Khanyile:

No worries.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay. 8:10. We'll see everybody, or rather, those joining us in exec there. [inaudible 01:47:03].

Aaron Bothner:

(silence)

PART 4 OF 6 ENDS [02:16:04]

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PART 5 OF 6 ENDS [02:50:00]

Aaron Bothner:

Okay. Good evening, everybody. Thank you for your patience. Sincerely appreciate it. Let me just ensure everybody is in here. Okay. I believe we have everybody. Let me also here ensure that you are all unmuted, which I will do. Okay. You all should be allowed to unmute. Let's try that, make sure that works before we head into the votes here.

Anuj Khatiwada:

Yep.

Jessica Boulet:

I can see that it works for me.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay. All set. Okay. All right. First order of business is a motion to come out of executive session.

Tim Bryan:

I second.

Aaron Bothner:

Okay. All those in favor?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Constance Barnes-Watson:

Aye.

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Opposed? Abstain? Okay, great. We're going to walk through a series of votes here that the board needs to undertake. Jessica, go ahead.

Jessica Boulet:

Okay. The first vote we have is that the board will vote to separate services with Lighthouse Academies effective at the close of the 2020-2021 school year. And in keeping with that, to authorize Aaron Bothner to execute that transition agreement with the guidance of counsel, according to the parameters specified in executive session.

Ellen Chen:

I second. It's Ellen.

Jessica Boulet:

Thanks, Ellen. All right. Let's just do a formal roll call. Aaron?

Aaron Bothner:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Constance?

Constance Barnes-Watson:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Anuj?

Anuj Khatiwada:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kamaria?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Shanta?

Shanta Pressley:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

[Kahari 03:16:51]? Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

And Aluta?

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Did I miss anyone? Great. The second vote. I move that the board should vote to authorize Aaron Bothner to signed a joint statement with Lighthouse Academies to announce our intention to separate.

Ellen Chen:

I second. It's Ellen again.

Jessica Boulet:

Thanks, Ellen. All right. Let's do a roll again. Aaron?

Aaron Bothner:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Constance?

Constance Barnes-Watson:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Anuj?

Anuj Khatiwada:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kamaria?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Shanta?

Shanta Pressley:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kahari? Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

And Aluta?

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Awesome. Third vote, or fourth vote, I guess, depending how you count. We vote to alter our organizational structure by creating an executive director role for the 2021-'22 academic year.

Tim Bryan:

I second.

Ellen Chen:

I second.

Jessica Boulet:

Thanks, Ellen. Aaron?

Aaron Bothner:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Constance?

Constance Barnes-Watson:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Anuj?

Anuj Khatiwada:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kamaria?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Shanta?

Shanta Pressley:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kahari? Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

And Aluta?

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Excellent. And last vote is to authorize Aaron Bothner, Kahari Shahbaz, and Aluta Khanyile, in cooperation with [Basic 03:19:15] Consulting to proceed in the search for candidates for a leader in residence.

Ellen Chen:

I second.

Jessica Boulet:

Thanks, Ellen. Aaron?

Aaron Bothner:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Constance?

Constance Barnes-Watson:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Anuj?

Anuj Khatiwada:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kamaria?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Shanta?

Shanta Pressley:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kahari? Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

And Aluta?

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Great. Thanks, everybody.

Aaron Bothner:

Dan, does that set up the minutes for what you need? Dan? Jessica, I think what I would... Just to make sure we've crossed our T's and dot our I's, I think we actually need a vote to authorize you and I to sign a resolution.

Jessica Boulet:

Okay, yeah. We can do that.

Aaron Bothner:

Just to make sure, because it's got to show up in the minutes.

Jessica Boulet:

Yeah. I think we're already in power to do that, but I hear you. Let's see. Let's say we vote. This language to authorize you and I to sign a resolution for material revisions in keeping with our votes.

Aaron Bothner:

Yeah, that's fine.

Jessica Boulet:

Great. All right. I move to authorize Aaron Bothner as the chair and myself as the secretary to sign resolutions from the board to formally submit material revisions to our charter in keeping with the votes that we just took.

Ellen Chen:

I second.

Jessica Boulet:

Thank you, Ellen. Aaron?

Aaron Bothner:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Constance?

Constance Barnes-Watson:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Anuj?

Anuj Khatiwada:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kamaria?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Shanta?

Shanta Pressley:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Tim?

Tim Bryan:

Jessica, can you say that again? [inaudible 03:21:52]

Jessica Boulet:

Are you trying to persecute me, or are you serious?

Tim Bryan:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Wait, Tim. Were you serious? Should I repeat it?

Tim Bryan:

Sorry, somehow my audio is messed up with the TV. I said that was a joke.

Jessica Boulet:

Oh, good. Okay. All right. Cool. Sophia?

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Kahari? Michael?

Michael Dorrie:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

And Aluta?

Aluta Khanyile:

Aye.

Jessica Boulet:

Awesome, okay.

Aaron Bothner:

Great. One last thank you to everybody who is here and worked tremendously hard over the entire year, especially over the past month, to get everything here teed up and lined up. This is only the beginning of the work. I've got a list of followup items next to me, but this is a big step forward, and look forward to working together and working together with all of our partners and stakeholders to make the most of this school year, and really looking forward to the years ahead for our school. With that, thank you everyone for your time this evening. And I motion that we adjourn the meeting.

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Ellen Chen:

Second.

Aaron Bothner:

In favor?

Kamaria Brisseau:

Aye.

Sophia Huda:

Aye.

Aaron Bothner:

Opposed?

Jessica Boulet:

Goodnight! [crosstalk 03:23:30].

Aaron Bothner:

Goodnight.

Kurt Davidson:

Bye, everybody.

PART 6 OF 6 ENDS [03:23:37]