



March 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting

Wed, 3/24 5:53PM 1:00:20

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

isl, students, testing, school, year, meeting, employees, board members, learning, virtually, kids, families, staff, people, important, parents, building, nfp, summer, talked

SPEAKERS

Melanie Tennyson, All Board Members, Jade Brown-Russell, Susan Chapman, Sarah Murphy, Grant Ligon, Max Correa

- G** Grant Ligon 08:59
It's a quorum, okay. It is six o'clock 6:02, right. So let's go and call the meeting to order this, the board meeting of the ISL.. it's a three to the March 24 meeting. We'll call it the order at 6:02. We'll call the roll, but I think I've actually got that already set up. I've got everybody listed. Susan, do you have it written down as well just to make sure? Very good. Okay, so on the. At this point, we'll proceed and on to the discussion from the head of school.
- M** Melanie Tennyson 09:31
Okay, that was faster than than I anticipated getting there today. So enrollment, 1285, and of that number approximately 25% of our students still continue to learn virtually state standardized testing is going to move forward, this spring. All students are going to be required to come into the building and test on campus, the superintendent Ideo He has let us know that Louisiana has chosen that option and that kids are not going to be able to test at home. So we're currently working on putting our plan into place around how to schedule all of that but we have this space, and we believe that, under our current COVID plan, we can bring students in who have been learning virtually and create their individual learning groups and be compliant with our schools COVID plan, And certainly, but the new CDC guidelines which has eliminated the need for six feet of space. Yeah, three feet. We should be able to do that fairly successfully it's a it's a lot of moving pieces and parts,

especially at the Uptown campus where every single student tests. Nobody tests at Dixon. And then over on the West Bank, Mr. Ferguson has grades three through five that test. The other thing that's different this year is that all of our kids are going to test online and years past. ISL and a lot of schools chose to have our third and fourth graders still do a paper and pencil test. Because especially when they're writing they're still thinking you know from brain kind of to hand to pencil but with the on the advent of COVID, kids did a lot more work virtually and on their computers and are much more comfortable using their Chromebooks and technology. So this will be our first year of testing all grades three through eight on the computer without paper and pencil. So that's going to be a very interesting experience for, for us,

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Grant Ligon 12:08

It will be the next week or two weeks?

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Melanie Tennyson 12:11

They pushed back testing, the testing window so we will start bringing in kids on May, either fourth or six, and they will test through the month of May. We'll have our older kids test first, because eighth graders need to take the DELE exam which is a Spanish language exam, and that's always right before they have their promotion, their last day of school, so we need to get them tested first, and then three, four and five will be later in the month. This is the latest we've ever tested, which is also kind of nice. When the window got pushed back so that kids teachers have more time to teach, I'd love to see it like this every year but I'm not sure that that'll take place. Right now our French students in fifth and eighth grade are taking the DELF, which is the French exam for non native French speakers, that's happening this week at the Uptown campus, and then the Spanish students will take their exam in May, we're excited to see what those results look like. Brandon Ferguson, who's with us tonight is participating in the School Leadership Center, a citywide school leader development program. They did a, like a half year session for school leaders, and Brandon is was the only one who of us who's in a leadership position who hadn't been through that. I had been through it in the early years and Rosy and Laura had been through one of their programs, and so we have Brandon participating now and that's exciting, that we'll all be alumni of that very successful and important program. Two middle school students were awarded scholarships to Circus Smirkus; one of our former circus artists is now working at college up in Vermont and has established a summer program called Circus Smirkus and offered in Vermont. Yeah, it's, it's a sleep away. Go. Stay in Vermont experience which we're super excited about Miss Meret and her team worked really hard to get the right people who could attend. You know some parents, that's a big, that's a big jaunt if you've never, you know some of our middle schoolers have

never spent the night away from home, others you know outside of this city, so. So we have found two families who are excited and willing to take the challenge one is going to drive the student up there, the others going to fly them up and we're working with them to help fundraise so that there aren't any costs associated for those families. So we're really excited about that. We're working on summer school or summer learning opportunities for our kids right now. We've put that out there, to our faculty and staff, everyone who works at the school, and that's the big challenge not just for ISL but for all schools in the city. Earlier this week I was on a call with Dr Brumley, and it was open to all the charter leaders in New Orleans, and we all want to have the experience. You know the state has ESSR dollars that are coming down, but we're all finding that we put it out to our teachers and staff that people are feeling more burned out than usual. People want to travel at our school and go back to their country of origin and see their family. Some of them haven't seen them in almost two years. We found a small window, you know, where we believe we can, we can have a short experience. And so we're working on what that looks like, who we're going to prioritize in that time, you know,

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Grant Ligon 16:21

Any discussion of schools combining to, to do this summer school. It's just when you're going to do, do it by ISL.

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Melanie Tennyson 16:29

We have talked to our partners right so we're going to talk to TREE and see if we can have - that's the Teaching Responsible Earth Education and see if they can either come in or even we could have kids go potentially to the North Shore and do that experience. We work with Goat in the Road, we work with 21st Century, we work with KidSmart. so we're gonna work with people who have been coming into the school and working with us, but we haven't talked to another school about mixing kids. And it's also for us, trying to... There are there's a competing hierarchy of needs right now, right? So we're talking about, like, we have 25% of our kids who have not been in our buildings and traditional school classrooms for over a year now. Do we need to prioritize them so they come back in, they have the routines of school, they have all that, like we want to do the social and emotional support for them as well as learning. Then we just have kids who we think, especially younger kids, who need more language because learning virtually has impeded or slowed down language acquisition, right? Their vocabulary might not be as big; they haven't been in a classroom or in the schools speaking the language hearing the language throughout the day like they have. So we have just competing priorities, and a certain number of staff, and so we're trying to figure out how to do that. Then we have kids who may need math and kids who may need ELA, so we're working on right now, a way to

accommodate the children with the greatest need, in the most efficient way possible. And we know unfortunately with that, we're not going to be able to hit everyone with the staff we have available to us but, but we are giving it much thought. And we surveyed the faculty once, put it out there twice, and now we'll come back and try to get them nailed down, too because they're going to drive the programming by their availability.

J Jade Brown-Russell 18:56

Melanie, can I ask you a question on that? What, what, from a budgetary standpoint, how does that impact our budget in terms of possibly having, you know, some level of school services during the summer?

M Melanie Tennyson 19:14

So this year, this year and possibly next year but this summer, Jade, it's there. They're getting, there's plenty of funding for it, and, yeah, and it was such an interesting meeting with the Superintendent, because he had so recently been, I think you know, in Jefferson Parish and in this district. He was like, you know, and so we've got all this money coming, and he was really encouraging us like to throw money at people which we will. But even, you know, all the, the leaders have even some of the big, bigger, CMOs Kipp and inspire, those things, we're doing, you know, where we want to do that, but that's for the first time ever that isn't incentivizing teachers to want to work because they're just mentally really tired.

J Jade Brown-Russell 19:27

Yeah, so I understand.

M Melanie Tennyson 19:54

But we do have money and we have, we're putting together I think a nice stipend for that work, and we're going to have the resources to do that. That should be coming soon.

M Max Correa 20:31

Sorry, quick, quick question if the if the bottleneck is having the staff, are you able to actually maybe outsource some of these programs, or does it have to be through the current staff?

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Melanie Tennyson 20:43

Well, yes. I think the problem is like TNTP that, that the, the new teacher project right which there are lots of a lot say that if there are 70 people in that program in the city, there are 70 schools competing for those spots. So we're gonna work with Community Works, who we already partner with. We will put, we can't, I don't think we can. ..So it's complicated, It depends.

M

Max Correa 21:20

I want to rephrase and say if we see a percentage of our student population that has a specific need, call that language or math, or LA. I think that's important to address and if we don't have any if the bottleneck is not having the resources then considering that outsource.

M

Melanie Tennyson 21:39

Right. It's just it's challenging to find people who have the skills to teach, like, fifth grade math right now, and who could come in and have been background checked and all those things but yes we are working on it and we do have the resources to do it and I have Laura and I have just met yesterday, I think it was, and talked about, who, like, who we can call to do that work and the hardest part is going to be the target language, it's always. But yes, and if you know anyone who is available, send them our way. If you, you know, like college, if you knew a bilingual college student who was coming home and was inter- for the summer, you know, a friend's child or niece, nephew, something like that. Have them get in touch with us. So summer learning: Community Works, who we have partnered with for years, will come in and do at least one summer camp, in person, and maybe multiple summer camps which is, it's just terrific because they do hit standards, academic standards through artistic and enrich, enriching activities, as well as, you know there's a lot of movement, and they understand our program, they've worked in our space. So, ideally we'll be able to have more than one camp, because we know that children just need to be out doors and experiencing kind of joy, and a lot of enrichment that has been missing from their lives, so they'll be there. We have been benchmark testing we do every year we use the achievement network iReady, DIBELS, and other assessments, and we're very happy to report that ISIL is not seeing, like, catastrophic learning loss like that we're hearing about nationally and even in some of our local reporting. Overall, our students are slightly behind, I would say where they were last year, like trending slightly behind where they were last year in January. However, it's really interesting to look at the data and see that there are many instances where our students by grade level are ahead of where they were not last January, but the January before and 2019. So that tells us that our kids are we anticipate that when we take the leap, we, we will see a fairly traditional pattern of

achievement. I think we can say, looking at the dibbles I was talking to Laura about dibbles and we don't see a huge decline, that's the dynamic indicator of I can't remember what it all is but that's for. We test our students in the early grades for their ability to read and use the English language with dibbles. So where we're optimistic about that and I think as we plan, and think about how we can accelerate learning for our students and you'll hear a lot about accelerating learning that might be things like, we'll drop out some less important standards and one that comes to mind all the time is like teaching how to tell teaching how to set in second grade teaching time right that's something that we might push our ask parents to work on next year because we will use I will want to spend more time on a priority standard like subtraction right that's something that we feel like we would need to work or regrouping with kids in school. And the only way we can accelerate learning is to not do some of the, I don't want to say they're less important because it's all everything's important but. But yes, less important skills or skills that we can distribute to other partners in learning across the curriculum and our stakeholders. I think something that's really important that we've been, I've been thinking a lot about is that, Rosy, Laura and I were all at ISL post-Katrina and leadership positions and then Brandon was at renew charter school here in New Orleans post Katrina and then came on with us and, and we all saw, and worked with children who had experienced a very traumatic event and there was tremendous learning loss or students were, we realized and to see how far students behind students were, and we moved students and we, we've done that before, we know how to do it, and we can do it. We can do it again, and I think now we have far far larger number of tools in our toolbox and resources to do that, so I feel optimistic. All that to say that our experience in the past what we've learned and what we've seen as a team. And not all schools.. now, when school leaders talk, have had that experience. They haven't ever had to move kids like that they haven't had kids who were victims of or experienced such trauma, so that gives me great confidence in our team. When I think about how we have that experience, when we think of this kind of daunting task in front of us. Communications and development: So, we have been doing some amazing work in science at ISL and today I know if you, those of you who are parents that ISL should have received the blog or the post, the email from Karla, that was about learning science at ISL, and she did just a wonderful job of highlighting Karen Marshall, our middle school science teacher and science coach, our partnerships with UNO, talking about the nursery that we've installed at the Uptown campus where we're growing seedlings for the rest of the coastal restoration project. Talking about Tressa Northington who is also coaching science in the early grades, and it was just a beautiful profile and if you haven't had the opportunity to look at that and see everything that we're doing, the way we teach science now at school with the New Generation Science Standards, I encourage you all to do it, the link is in my head report and you can just click on that and and take a look at that. It's really, it was great to see it. You know, sometimes I get lost and in the day to day; we do all this work, and I forget, like, just how tremendous a job our

employees do in a day, and how successful our students are. We can't reveal at this time, who the winners are of our middle school science fair but we have every year for the past, I don't know, four or five years we've had students from ISL win first, second, and or third place. Sometimes we've swept categories in the local science fair, and we've had for the past, I think, three years people go to the State. We've had one year we had a student who won here in New Orleans and that's due to, in a great part, due to Miss Marshall, and her belief in how science should be taught, the scientific method and inquiry. So that's there, and we're really excited about it. We're really proud, and on April 8, we will reveal our, our latest winners. It's really exciting. We're gonna participate and give NOLA day, again, this year, some people will be hearing about that. Karla and I have talked about it, and it'll be a very low key ask, but, but we thought it better to ask than not, than to not ask at all. You know, just if people can afford to give him would like to give, please do, but there won't be a high pressure. Giving Campaign. Operations. Our employment letters will be going out again when we return from spring break. We don't have very many positions to fill at this time, but I think I've mentioned in other meetings, it's also the time of year when someone's partner gets a transfer you know to a company in Texas or New Jersey and, you know, we'll lose someone unexpectedly. We've begun working on the budget for this year. We anticipate that the MFP for Orleans Parish students is going to go down we're hearing that it's not going to go down for Jefferson Parish, so that's great for 45% of our students but the 55% of our students will probably decrease, but once again, there's a, there's like federal money is coming and we anticipate that that is going to offset that loss, and that it's very flexible, and how we can use it, as well as the fact that we have a reserve. So we feel good about that.



Jade Brown-Russell 32:22

Is there a reason why? Is it from tax revenue? Is it because of decrease in revenues and locally, okay.



Melanie Tennyson 32:29

Yeah, and I think it really, in New Orleans, it's all about hotels you know in the restaurant business, which we rely on so heavily. Here, we talked about the Finance Committee meeting we put out an RFP for our audit and tax services and I know that's gone out because I've heard back from CRI that our current auditor that they, they got it, and they will respond again this year, try to continue to be our auditor. Today, Emily and I met with NFP. NFP is our fiduciary agent, and we talked to them at length about our relationship with TIAA. And it was a it was a long conversation, but a very good conversation. We wanted, we partnered with NFP, I think, two years ago now, maybe we're about two and a half years in, and they don't think that TIAA is necessarily maximizing our employees

dollars in the retirement, and that.. They talked to us that there are other retirement funds or companies that we could use, where they think that we would better be able to maximize those dollar retirement dollars for our employees. So we're going to bring the idea of the possibility of changing retirement plans to the next Finance Committee meeting, and, you know, we can put that out for RFP again. And we'll be asking for board members to participate, you know in that process, because we really want to do what is in the best interest of our employees and TIAA has traditionally worked in education. But in education circles, our, our number of employees. Well, our charter school is large and were small and so they offer very little flexibility and the number of option investment options for us I don't know all of that, like, so the folks that NFP were encouraging us, you know, to look around, so we'll come back to that. COVID: I'm sad to say, it says as of March we have zero students of one employee who are currently identified as positive, but one of our colleagues was admitted to the hospital today; Assistant Principal Jairo Maldonado has pneumonia in both lungs and that's, yeah, that's, that's tough. So while our numbers have been really good, this one is hard. So send a prayer or an intention or a thought his way if you would, He would appreciate that. To date, we have referred 239 of our students to be tested. And we've had 20 come back positive. We've had 19 Positive staff to date, and the total number of quarantines among our staff have been 66. We hope, as our employees, went to get their second shot today (the first wave of the second shot starts today, and ends this weekend) that you know that will slow down and we won't see any more of that. We have had 156 employees or contractors were vaccinated. During the first round, and we hope to get some more but, in total, the people who also got vaccinated outside that brings it to 170, which is 77% of our staff, so that feels good to know that that's going to be enough to kind of have herd immunity let's hope and the adults in our building. And with that in mind, and testing coming, and needing Wednesdays back and There hasn't been a large number of parent requests, but I get one or two a week asking for kids to come back on Wednesdays. Starting April 12 we're going to have our kids come back into the building five days a week because as of that date, all employees who chose to be vaccinated will have completed that process. And that's exciting to us. Lucia Hammer, our Target Language Materials and Assessment Coordinator, as in the DELF, up to, up to her eyebrows in the DELF today putting that together and tomorrow. But she's also taking on the family engagement and planning piece for us. It's great because she is completely trilingual, so she can reach out and communicate to all of our families in writing and verbally and in their home language, and if there's someone who speaks another language she would happily find someone on our staff to work with them if needed. So that's exciting that that project is going on. And finally, school calendar is being proofed and we will distribute it to all of our families right when we come back from break. I'll send out a Head of School letter; there'll be more information then about summer school and testing. We're waiting, we want to wait until then because we'll have more concrete, ideally, more concrete information, as we hate to make changes. It just

adds to confusion, but at that time the year at a glance calendar will go out to families, too, because we've had probably more requests for 'when is the first day of school next year' and fall break. I think people are spending a lot of time fantasizing about what they're going to be doing next year on their fall break. So that is the most requested piece of information in my inbox this year and that will be coming. With that, and the fun fact here that this year I ESL staff has employed some 33 different countries and speaking 23 different languages. May I ask you, on the other student count of 1285, is that a, is it an active student count, or is there any color to that, like there's a portion of the population that is not engaged? That is, that is up, like that is up to, you know, to date; probably yesterday morning Susan pulled those numbers, you know, so unless someone withdrew today or came in and because we're still, believe it or not, we still get students once in a while, this time of the year. Those are up to the minute numbers; there's 383 at Dixon, 638 Uptown, and 304 in the West Bank; and now 25%, of students are still learning virtually. More Uptown and West Bank, than Dixon; Dixon has probably 15%. You know the little ones, more little ones came back, and I think our biggest group, a grade level that's out is sixth grade. We have a tremendous number of sixth graders who remained virtual, and we have hypothesized about why that is but we don't really know. We heard back from - after the report was written - we heard from NOLA Public Schools about the AP Turead building. They, as we mentioned in strategic planning, had to have the building appraised, again. One of the their requirements is that the appraisal must be done within six months of the time that they put it up, either for sale or long term lease, and their former appraisal was a couple of years old. It came back a little higher at 1.4 million but that is rather than 1.2 Even though the building had had been really vandalized inside. It went up but I think that's due to rising real estate in that neighborhood, but still, I think it's a reasonable price. So we've gone to the bank, Emily spoke with Charles today. He's getting us another appraisal. Tiffany, and Sue Robertson at NOLA Public Schools are going to get back in touch with next steps and then.. We've talked to Charles and Lee. So we're just taking it step by step and walking, walking through that and I'll let you know what, what the, our appraiser has to say about the building.



Jade Brown-Russell 42:32

Mr. Chair, can I ask you a couple questions? Okay, so first before I, before my questions I only have I think only one or two questions. But I just wanted to acknowledge Brandon. Brandon, congratulations. That is awesome, awesome news . I'm very as Melanie knows I'm very familiar with school leadership center and we're just really proud of you, so congratulations on that. Melanie, Ite one question that I did have was one I just -before I ask the question, I just want to thank you for your leadership and I know you have all of your leaders on the line. Yuu uys have just done a phenomenal job in the most impossible circumstance, to continue to deliver education to our most prized

possessions, so I just want to say thank you to you guys. I wonder whether as we approach the end of the year, whether there is anything planned for our teachers, and if so -you don't have to I don't want to put you on the spot on that -but if there is anything planned please keep us in the loop I would love to be supportive of that in any way that I possibly can, whether it's just presence or financially. I think that that's really important to celebrate the people who, who got us through all of this craziness. Also, I, the, the question that I had was around testing. Do we know yet what the because some of our kids are slightly behind, what, what is the, I hate to use the word consequences but I know that there are sometimes testing has its high stakes kind of testing. Right, I don't know if I'm using the right word, like what, what are we to get out of this testing is it, you know, are there any, I know, it used to be where certain grade levels if you didn't if you didn't have mastery in certain areas or whatever you would be with how back, like what, what, and I know there was some conversation around whether we would hold kids back this year, or whether we would just use testing to gauge where they are just wanted to know what you were hearing around that

M

Melanie Tennyson 44:58

Great questions and I'm glad you asked. So there, there was, at one point fourth and eighth grade were high stakes and if you didn't pass the leap in fourth grade like you couldn't go to the next grade that well that has changed in terms of state policy which I think is a good thing. The Department of Ed and I think all of us felt strongly that state testing should go on this year because we get really important data points from that and I, for us, like we can really track individual student growth and standard we can really dig into that so we want to do that so we're happy, that's going to happen. It sounds like new schools New Orleans has really been advocating around testing; I don't know if you get the Patrick Dobard's letters. And so we signed on to a letter with a lot of other school leaders in the city, asking that there'll be absolutely no net negative consequences, children nor schools are penalized for their test results this year. And I think that, I feel, not 100%, but I feel pretty good, like pretty confident especially after hearing Dr Brumley this week speak, and I don't think that he wants that to happen either. Now I don't know if there has to be like legislative approval to lift, you know, some of those restrictions or BESE but I think it's gonna happen, Jade. I don't think that anyone is going to be punished. Now what's going to feel bad for us potentially is that there are children whose families chose for them to learn virtually, and have very specific reasons and they do not want to send their children into the school building. If they don't do that - and I respect their choice - we get a zero. Like there's no, you know, way to opt out for that, and we don't get the information. Now, it won't impact our SPS score isn't going to change that but it will, when the numbers come out - and they will be released to the public - like if there were 15 kids who chose not to test, that could look ugly for us, I'd say, or less than

desirable like are we. And so we're asking also, we the collective school leaders in the city and through Patrick is that the LDE do a lot of education around that to the community around the state, because it's not just New Orleans. it's every district, and there are districts that only have 600 kids, like they're smaller than our charter school, and if, if 30 families were to stay home and they got zeroes it would be devastating. So everybody's advocating for it; I feel 95% confident that you know it's going to, it's all gonna work out in our favor.



Jade Brown-Russell 48:19

Okay, um, last two things one, if you guys, I don't know whenever the time is appropriate to circulate whatever information for Give NOLA day, whenever that comes around, I think we all as board members should should do our part, on that. And then, please let us know if there's anything that we can do for Mr. Maldonado. He'll be in our thoughts and our prayers, so..



Melanie Tennyson 48:43

Thank you. Yeah.



Jade Brown-Russell 48:44

Thanks, Grant.



Grant Ligon 48:46

Welcome. At this time, I should ask first, Melanie, are you done?



Melanie Tennyson 48:51

I am. I've got, I've wanted to say that hazard pay - one of my bullets that I missed - was released this week, and maybe just today and I think employees... Emily thanked everyone at the Finance Committee meeting, but I want to thank the board again because that was greatly appreciated by all of the staff. Made everybody very happy.



Grant Ligon 49:15

Very happy to do it; that's good to hear. And with that, I'll ask if there's any board comment or questions on the head of school report.



49:23



Sarah Murphy 49:24

I'm sorry but Give NOLA day, in terms of as board members, and I'm just going to jump in as the fundraiser on the board and say that one of the ways that we can really help with Give NOLA day, is that if we visit the ISL giving page for Give NOLA Day, it gives us the option to create our own giving pages where we can set our own personal individual goals, and share those with our family, friends, colleagues, as board members, and ask them to join us in donating. We can start doing that during the early giving period which is April 20, and that runs all the way through, Give NOLA Day on May 4. And if there's if they make it super super easy, there are social media buttons that you can share directly from that page. And, you know, I would just keep telling people that any of those gifts that are made through give Nola day will be boosted by GNOFs Lagniappe Fund. So it's really important to do that and then if anybody on the board happens to have a donor advised fund through going off, you can make donations through your donor advised fund through April 23 By getting in touch with Jamie Agnew at GNOF. And if you do make a donation through your donor advised fund. It is not going to be subject to the credit card or neon one processing fees, and they will also be matched and boosted by the Lagniappe Fund.



Melanie Tennyson 51:12

So Sarah, I'll make sure that Karla Cochran connects with you; she usually reaches out to board members, but she's, you know our development person to say she could reach out to you directly, and you can get..



Sarah Murphy 51:25

And if anyone wants some sample language for, you know, an email to send to your friends or anything, please let me know I'm happy to, you know, send that along and make it less awkward.



Grant Ligon 51:36

Thank you.



Jade Brown-Russell 51:37

Thanks, Sara.



51:38

Grant, I had a couple of quick comments. One related to COVID; I think that as vaccines role obviously we're all getting a lot of sense of confidence and just, I see my company and others like it starting to relax on the protocols and maybe to keep an eye on that. We still have obviously member of the communities that are exposed or I guess vulnerable to it so I hope that that's not happening just that we comment on that fatigue is how long it's gone and, and then their sense of confidence, so so, that's just a quick comment. And the other one on the schedule: as a parent, maybe board member parent. I noticed I don't know what the variables are and I don't have a strong feeling about it, but I do notice that some of our breaks don't quite match with the breaks of others schools and the problem with that is that often times there's not a lot of activities camps or stuff like that in the weeks we are on break and it just makes it a little harder so I'm not sure what drives that but, but that to keep that in mind in scheduling I think would be good for parents, our parents.



Melanie Tennyson 52:51

Right so, so I can speak to. So, what drives that is, there's also a, there's a city wide principal group, and we set parameters for when we, we can have school breaks. And we've agreed, there are agreed upon windows now, these are for the public charter schools. And ISL lines up with all of them within the windows, now their windows of time. With the exception of fall break, and the fall break it - Lycee Francais, ISL, and Audubon, has that break and that is because it's really integral to the French education system, and we've done it for 21 years, and it's now like part of just our school culture but we do outside of the fall break which, and then we do try to align with Lycee - the other type 2 school - we do. We do actually do plan with the other charter schools in the city but we don't have this, we don't all have the same breaks but we have, like, 10 day or two week windows where we all agree.



Max Correa 54:14

Just an example this this spring break, there's very little for parents, at least what I'm seeing and it's all the following week, when, but anyways, I understand. Yeah, just to keep that in mind because of the alternative care parents have to find for this pipe breaks.



Grant Ligon 54:32

Alright, anything else Max?

M Max Correa 54:34
That's all from my side. Thank you.

G Grant Ligon 54:36
Just to check and see any further board comments or questions? Thank you at every meeting we do have the opportunity for the public to have a comment section. Susan already in the public on the call.

S Susan Chapman 54:55
We do have some guests, but I don't see any requests to make comments.

G Grant Ligon 54:59
Okay, so we do have a comment section they are able to make a comment to the board at this time if we don't have any. We can, I want to make sure make a couple of acknowledgments for the board members who are on the call of Valiant Cuiellette is on the call, he's in. He's in the process of working on his way onto the board. So welcome him to the, to the process and we'll move along pretty soon. There is another candidate, her name is Sarah McGoldrick, and she is having a baby next week, so she'll probably she'll probably delay coming on until, let's say July or something we'll get back with her in a couple of months. So there are a couple of good tenants, we're moving to bring onto the board here, summertime and Senate. So welcome belly and thank you for coming tonight, appreciate it. Thanks for everybody for coming tonight and I as well thank the administration, it's been an interesting year and one for the books and I appreciate all y'all have done, you got something out.

M Melanie Tennyson 56:04
Yeah, it just triggered something and I'm sorry, I just want to put out there that Sarah Vandergriff reminded us in a meeting that we were in that. The open meeting laws and with, you know COVID changing that virtual me, our ability to meet just virtually is going to change right at some points, they may just say, you know, open man, you have to meet in person, or some hybrid, you know, version of of our meetings, seems to me like it would be ideal. I guess that's what I might have so we've had more parent participation since we've met virtually. And that's, you know, The more people who come to our public meetings, the better. I'm trying to figure out how to do that when we can no longer meet virtually when, you know, the, I don't know if it's a, What kind of order has allowed us, you

know, an emergency has been declared that allows us to meet virtually but when that emergency decree is taken away, we are going to have to go back to meeting in person and so from there, Facebook Live is not, it's not as interactive as it allows people to see you know and attend the meeting. But I just want us all to be thinking about that grant that in the not too distant future, or next school year we will be back in the building, and just ways that we can all think about ways to capture the good things about COVID And that was like, how to, how to make our meeting still, you know, accessible to our community, virtually,



Jade Brown-Russell 58:11

I think, one, one thing that you could consider and I don't want to belabor it too long because I think, you know give folks time to think about it, but, you know, even in a space where we're all together as board members right you could still open up the same very space right and the board, the board meeting room would be one box on this on the screen and then you'd allow others, even some of our administration right who you know are gone for the day are trying to you know get home and multitask and all of those things, you know, they could still join via zoom. Parents of the like, even some board members who are not able to join the meeting in person could still join, they just wouldn't be able to vote, right, they wouldn't be counted towards a quorum. So I think, you know, to your point, I think we've, we've added some more tools in the toolbox, but I think we can still kind of continue the same, same process.



Melanie Tennyson 59:08

Yeah, and I'm sure you know, Andrew and .. have great cameras and ways you know, setting up the technology so that we can get wide angle views or you know, there, there's a way to do it, but I did want everyone to just think about it and be aware that in the not too distant future, they're going to say, we have to start meeting in person, again,




Grant Ligon 59:35


Gotta come sometime. Yeah, hard to believe it's been a year; unbelievable.




Jade Brown-Russell 59:39

I know.


 Grant Ligon 59:42
So with that we have concluded the business of the meeting, and I will request a vote, a motion to adjourn


 Jade Brown-Russell 59:50
So moved.


 Grant Ligon 59:51
Jade moves; do I have a second.

 Max Correa 59:54
I'll second. I'll second.

 Grant Ligon 59:55
Max seconds. All members voting aye?

 All Board Members 1:00:01
Aye.

 Grant Ligon 1:00:03
Voting nay? (silence) Meetings adjourned, thank you very much, everybody.

 Jade Brown-Russell 1:00:07