



Springfield Prep

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday December 7, 2016 at 5:45 PM

Location

370 Pine St.

This meeting of the Springfield Prep Charter School Board will be held at 370 Pine St. on 12/7/16 at 5:45 pm. Meeting notice was posted on the school's website (www.springfieldprep.org) on 12/2/16 at 4 pm.

Trustees Present

A. Grant, D. Williams, J. Brown, K. Molina, R. Olejarz

Trustees Absent

K. Murphy, R. Leonard, T. Walker

Ex Officio Members Present

B. Spirer

Non Voting Members Present

B. Spirer

Guests Present

M. Wagner

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Williams called a meeting of the board of trustees of Springfield Prep to order on Wednesday Dec 7, 2016 at 5:50 PM.

C. Updates & Recognitions

D. Approve November Minutes

R. Olejarz made a motion to approve minutes from the Board Meeting on 11-02-16 Board Meeting on 11-02-16.

A. Grant seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Approve November Special Meeting minutes

R. Olejarz made a motion to approve minutes from the Special Meeting on 11-14-16 Special Meeting on 11-14-16.

A. Grant seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. MA Charter Public School Association Delegate Assembly Report

Bill reported out on highlights from the November MCPSA Delegate Assembly meeting:

- There is some concern is that opponents of charter schools will try to chip away at critical aspects of charter schools, primarily their autonomies and the charter tuition formula.
- Public opinion still views charters as successful, so the referendum was not a loss on that front, but it was a political loss.
- There is concern that the initiative led to the dissemination of a lot of misinformation about charters.

II. Facility Task Force Report

A. Facility discussion

Bill received, and is now negotiating, the lease. The primary concern at the moment is the construction timeline. The next step is for the school and its counsel to meet with the developer and finalize details regarding timing and environmental assurances. A major concern of the board was that the project could not be delivered on time, and if that is to occur, what recourse would be available to the school. Bill shared that he has begun discussing the possibility of extending the Veritas lease for another year to accommodate the school should the construction be delayed. The board discussed the possibility of using a temporary site but the consensus was that two moves would be very harmful to

the school and that it should be an absolute last resort. In sum, the school needs to solidify its back-up plan and simultaneously Bill is working with Craig, David and John to iron out details.

III. Governance Committee Report

A. BoardOnTrack Assessments

Danielle requested that board members complete the survey by the end of the week.

IV. Finance Committee Report

A. October Financials

Robin reported out the highlights from the finance committee meeting.

- The school is in strong financial shape and there are no concerns with revenues or expenses
- The negative change in net position is error; it is actually is a positive

R. Olejarz made a motion to accept the financials for audit.

K. Molina seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Academic Achievement Report

A. November Academic Dashboard

Bill reviewed the academic and culture trends from the Academic Dashboard:

- The economically disadvantaged number is updated including additional information
- Attendance is trending in positive direction
- STEP data was disappointing due to overall performance and a lack of growth in many students. Wendy and Bill attribute this to these possible causes: (1) They have been coaching a lot around co-teaching subjects and math, but less around literacy blocks; (2) Professional development focused on more advanced literacy skills because those were a challenge at the end of last year, but did not focus enough on early literacy skills; and (3) the school did not administer benchmark assessments to all students in the first few weeks of school, so we may have learned too late that there was a slump over the summer. Wendy and Bill have taken a number of steps to rapidly address this data: (1) They've used this moment to create urgency; (2) they have increased professional development on specific skills; and (3) they have created tools to track who we are targeting at specific points in day so teachers doing "micro-interventions". They will report out on progress at January meeting.

- Also, Wendy will be giving a presentation on the various assessments we use at the next Board meeting

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Peter noted that it would be his final meeting as a Trustee. Danielle thanked him for his service to the school over three years. Bill also noted that he would share more video and pictures from school events at board meetings to help the board remain connected to the amazing work teachers and students are doing every day.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Spirer