APPROVED

Kestrel Heights Public Charter School

Minutes

August Board Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday August 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Directors Present
A. Davis (remote), B. Paris (remote), D. Powe (remote), D. Wimberly (remote), S. Goram (remote), S. McGarrah (remote)

Directors Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
J. Price (remote), T. Jackson (remote)

Guests Present
A. Touchette (remote), Aniya Farrington (remote), Crystal Marrow (remote), Elise Pritchett (remote), Kimanthi Thompson (remote), M. Gordon (remote), S. Vargas (remote), S. Villegas (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Davis called a meeting of the board of directors of Kestrel Heights Public Charter School to order on Tuesday Aug 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

B.

Public Comment Submission

Mrs. Davis invited the public to add any public comments into the chat.

C. Record Attendance and Guests

D. Approve July Meeting Minutes

D. Wimberly made a motion to approve the minutes from July Board Meeting on 07-11-23.
S. Goram seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

II. Key Agenda Items & Presentations

A. Marketing and Enrollment Update

Mrs. Vargas shared the marketing and enrollment update. Marketing reach was up across all applications and social media in the past month. As of today, enrollment is at 469 students with a target of 505. Several students withdrew over the month as they accepted admissions to other schools. Exit surveys to families withdrawing have continued. 94% of returning students were retained in June, but that percentage dropped to 73% over the summer (excluding 8th grade graduates). We continue to fill seats with new scholars as people withdraw.

B. Facilities Sub Committee

Mrs. Gordon and Mr. KT provided an update on the facilities. There are ongoing issues with Emerge Consulting group to complete cabling project (for internet cabling). The monument sign needs to be reconnected to get it working again. There was a leak in the sprinkler system, and that has been repaired along with the ceiling leak. There are HVAC units that need to be repaired along with 10 toilets.

Copiers have been delivered and installed along with a new HVAC unit installed in July and repairs were made to the gym HVAC units. Painting of hallways and a wall in the gym were completed.

The facilities committee is fielding quotes for repairs and units. In the first year, the committee estimates that there will be around $400,000 in costs and $550,000 in the second year. These are estimates that the Board will figure out how to fund.

III. Curriculum & Assessment

A.

School Culture Report

Mr. Price provided an update on the school culture, including the academic subcommittee and Camp Kestrel. Some of the companies that came to the camp have already begun working with students outside of camp. Orientation is coming up as well as the first day of school for staff and students. He shared the Rave app was provided by the State as a free school safety app that Kestrel will use next year.

Ms. Marrow provided an update on Camp Kestrel. There were 99 scholars that attended Camp Kestrel. The camp started with an iReady assessment, and scholars saw a lot of growth during the camp in reading and math. The camp was a success, and we think that camp will be offered for a fourth and final year with our COVID funds.

B. Read to Achieve Results

Ms. Villegas provided an update on the Read to Achieve results. Kestrel provides a 3-4 transitional class for students that do not meet reading proficiency by the end of the third grade, and those students receive extra support for reading proficiency in this class. Kestrel has seen a significant increase with 53% of 3rd graders achieving reading proficiency post-COVID. Kestrel will continue to support identified students through intervention.

IV. Operational Reports

A. Executive Director Report

Mrs. Jackson provided the Executive Director's report. She provided an update that Kestrel is entering our charter school renewal phase, which is a two-year process.

B. Monthly Budget Report

Mrs. Jackson provided an overview of the monthly budget as well as the requirements for our bond covenants (e.g., days cash on hand and debt service ratio). Kestrel is in good shape on our budget and is meeting our covenants.

C. Operations Report

Mrs. Jackson provided an update on the work by Mr. KT and Mrs. Gordon to get ready the existing and new buildings ready for the new school year.

V. Committee Reports

A. Academic Sub-Committee

Mr. Powe shared that local companies were engaged with Camp Kestrel, and we are already working with partners for back-to-school activities. The subcommittee sent a survey out to faculty for additional needs and ideas.

B.

Governance Committee

Mrs. Davis noted that the Governance subcommittee has been working on recruiting new board members.

C. Executive Committee - Vote

Mrs. Davis advised board members that they needed to submit a ballot via email for the Board's executive committee members for the 2023-24 school year.

Upon collection of the ballots, the Kestrel Heights Board Executive Committee for next year is:

Adrienne Davis - President
Derek Powe - Vice President
Serja Goram - Treasurer
Stephanie McGarrah - Secretary

VI. Closed Session

A. Enter Closed Session

D. Wimberly made a motion to Enter into closed session closed session per§ 143-318.11. (a) (1) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded. (6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge

or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.
B. Paris seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Personnel Recommendations

C. Construction Discussion

D. Board Meeting Agenda Items

VII. Closing Items

A. Report out from Closed Session

Mrs. McGarrah reported that the Board discussed staffing, a personnel evaluation, and construction contract business in the closed session.
S. McGarrah made a motion to Approve 4/5 grade math teacher and front office assistant as recommended.
D. Wimberly seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
S. McGarrah	Aye
D. Wimberly	Aye
D. Powe	Aye
A. Davis	Abstain
B. Paris	Aye
S. Goram	Aye

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. McGarrah