

APPROVED



City on a Hill Charter Public School

Minutes

December 2021 Executive Director Support Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday December 1, 2021 at 1:00 PM

This meeting took place remotely pursuant to An Act Extending certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency signed into law by Governor Baker on June 16, 2021.

Committee Members Present

Andres Tejada Soto, Jacqueline Bennett

Committee Members Absent

Sarah Griffin

Guests Present

Jordan Lopez (remote), Kevin Taylor (remote), Maddie Collins (remote), Sonya Pratt (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Jacqueline Bennett called a meeting of the Executive Director Support And Eval Committee of City on a Hill Charter Public School to order on Wednesday Dec 1, 2021 at 1:02 PM.

C.

Approve October 2021 Meeting Minutes

Andres Tejada Soto made a motion to approve the minutes from October 2021 Executive Director Support Committee Meeting on 10-21-21.

Jacqueline Bennett seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Sarah Griffin Absent

Jacqueline Bennett Aye

Andres Tejada Soto Aye

II. School Year 2021-2022 Executive Director Goals Review

A. School Year 2021-22 Executive Director Goals Discussion

Sonya Pratt, Executive Director, reviewed her goals with the Committee in addition to the measures added to track each goal. Pratt shared that these measures included, but were not limited to, turning in all probation-related deliverables, surveying staff regarding professional development opportunities, adjusting staffing needs for School Year 2022-2023, and actively participating in the Massachusetts New Charter Leader cohort. Pratt reminded the Committee that these measures are all aligned with measures in City on a Hill's Academic Action Plan and Accountability Plan.

The Committee probed on the measures for goal number one, asking what the timeline was for probation materials to be submitted. Pratt shared that these deliverables are ongoing submissions and all data that is required to formulate the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) report of how COAH is fulfilling probationary conditions. This measure would hold Pratt accountable for ensuring all deliverables, submissions and deadlines are met and tracked throughout the school year (attendance, enrollment, etc).

The Committee asked for more specifics around the measures for Goal #3. Specially, how many teachers had been hired at the beginning of this school year (school year 2021-2022). Jordan Pina, Chief of Staff, shared that last year COAH was tracking teacher retention. Pratt's goal of starting SY23 with 75% of all staff positions filled is based on what the Leadership Team has decided would be effective to operate COAH after considering staffing this school year (21-22).

The Committee asked if the school could operate at 75% hired. Pratt shared that the goal is always to be 100 percent hired, but the measure for Goal #3 allows for consideration of the challenging hiring market that City on a Hill has faced this year if it were to continue into SY23.

The discussion concluded with the Committee asking if more broadly, the exercise was helpful for Pratt to go through the measures in addition to her goals. Pratt shared that

these measures have already been in place, as they align with the measures in COAH's Action Plan and Accountability Plan.

The Committee shared that they could measure Pratt's performance as Executive Director with these proposed goals and measures.

III. Executive Director Transition Finalization

A. Executive Director Transition Finalization

Kevin Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, reminded the Committee that in June 2021, 50% of the CEO bonus was paid based on his SY20 CEO Goals. Taylor shared that this half of the bonus would be according to the academic performance of COAH in SY20. Taylor shared metrics of academic data including SY20 MCAS scores, MAP data, and metrics published on the DESE website.

Taylor shared MCAS metrics, noting that the administration of the MCAS was not certain for most of SY20 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and remote learning. The Committee asked if the MCAS was optional in SY20.

Sonya Pratt, Executive Director, shared that the MCAS was not optional for students who were enrolled, however, because the test needed to be administered in person, many families were not comfortable with sending their students into the building to take the exam in the midst of a global pandemic. In addition to that, attendance was down in SY20 because of the pandemic as well, also affecting the amount of students who took the exam.

Taylor shared that in addition to MCAS data, City on a Hill students were required to take the MAP test, a nationally-normed growth base exam, to track academic growth in SY20. Pratt shared that students had the opportunity to take a baseline exam and one growth exam last school year for MAP.

The Committee asked more specifically about the comparative MAP data. Pratt shared that the numbers are RIT scores, which show both the average RIT score of the section who took the MAP exam compared to the national average RIT. Pratt noted that this MAP data should be considered pilot data, as it was the first year for students to take the test and it was only administered twice - once remotely and in once person due to COVID-19. Pratt shared that this school year (SY21) students will be taking the MAP test three times.

The Committee asked, considering the COVID-19 global pandemic, remote learning and its effect on academic achievement, what data would be the most helpful to judge academic performance. Taylor shared that it is important consider that City on a Hill students even took the MCAS in the midst of a global pandemic, and that Taylor spent SY20 advocating for DESE to allow for other metrics to measure academic achievement such as MAP data.

Taylor then shared each of his nine metrics that are published on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website. Through year over year data, comparing SY19 and SY20, these nine data points were considered: Enrollment, Attendance, Selected Populations, Mobility, Attrition, Teacher Data, Staffing Data, Staffing Retention, and Retention.

The Committee agreed that all of these measures are impacted by the effect the pandemic had on students (engagement, achievement, etc.) and agreed that it is reasonable to gather that because of the pandemic, these measures are unprecedented.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the December 2020 CEO Support Committee Meeting to note what measures were used then. The Committee asked more specifically about the MAP results in SY20. Pratt broke down the data, sharing that it showed the results from the baseline test and one growth test. The Committee determined that the data showed consistency in reading and language RIT scores. Pratt noted that the achievement on the MAP test aligned closely with COAH internal academic data.

The Committee acknowledged that there was a need for more performance data to award the full bonus, which might not be available due to COVID-19. With the data provided, the Committee agreed that Taylor's performance has shown stability in a school year that was unprecedented, voting to award 95% of Taylor's bonus.

The discussion concluded with the Committee committing to discussing what metrics will be used to measure academic achievement at the next meeting when considering Pratt's bonus next December.

Andres Tejada Soto made a motion to Vote to Recommend Approval of 95% of the Potential Bonus Outlined in Kevin Taylor's CEO Contract.

Jacqueline Bennett seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Jacqueline Bennett Aye

Sarah Griffin Absent

Andres Tejada Soto Aye

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jacqueline Bennett