DRAFT

Next Generation Charter Schools

Minutes

MetLCS Annual Retreat

Date and Time
Saturday June 6, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Location
https://metlcs.zoom.us/j/98492493040?pwd=T0RENDZDK0p3bkVaQnVwVmtaOTFsdz09

Mission

We prepare our students for college through a rigorous arts-infused program.

Vision

All students will be taught by a highly effective teacher in a nurturing environment and will achieve at high levels. Each student will develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for responsible citizenship and life-long learning. The impact of our collective efforts will fundamentally change public education.

Retreat Objectives

• Build relationships between MetLCS Board members and senior leadership
• Completing the articulation of a board-level Mission/Vision/Values statement and a five (5) year strategic plan
• Deepen our understanding of effective Board governance structures

Trustees Present
A. Bothner (remote), A. Khatiwada (remote), E. Chen (remote), J. Boulet (remote), K. Brisseau (remote), M. Dorrie (remote), S. Pressley (remote), T. Bryan (remote)

Trustees Absent
J. McDonald

Guests Present
A. Khanyile (remote), C. Barnes-Watson (remote), K. Davidson (remote), K. Shabazz (remote), M. Alston (remote), S. Huda (remote), T. Williams (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Bothner called a meeting to order on Saturday Jun 6, 2020 at 12:10 PM.

C. Welcome from Aaron Bothner, Board Chair

A. Bothner explained that the day was about taking a step back from the daily duties of Trustees and school leaders, and instead reflecting on strategic priorities and goals for the school, with an eye to the bigger picture.

II. Strategic Planning Best Practices

A. Strategic Planning Best Practices

A. Bothner explained that the framework for the day's strategic planning was to be aspirational in envisioning the school's future; to be in the moment and engaged in discussion with one another; to limit long speeches so as to cover more ground; and for everyone to keep a list of items that are interesting or require follow-up so that they can be pursued in future planning discussions. He also explained some logistical practices to be applied in order to ensure that everyone has time to speak.

III. Organizational North Star - Grounding in the Why

A. Organizational North Star - Grounding in the Why

Participants discussed a number of school values: what they mean to participants individually, why they matter, and what they look like, feel like and sound like in practice at Met. The values are:

- "All children"
- "Children first"
- "Healthy relationships"
- "Better tomorrow, next year, and five years from now"
- "Rigorous preparation for college, career and life"
- "Think & act boldly, innovatively, and practically"
- "Schools are aspirational institutions that can work to overcome systemic inequality"

Some themes that emerged are the need to support students in being resilient in the face of difficult realities, in critical thinking, in practical skills (cultural and professional competency), and in building trusting relationships with each other as well as with school staff and the community. Supporting students also looks like being proactive rather than reactionary, paying attention to the language being used, and making sure every child is treated as a unique individual. Finally, students need to be empowered to change the

world around them to be better, and more equal. Part of that is making sure children have a safe space to consider and confront injustices in the world.

B. Break

IV. Lightning Round Relationship Activity

A. Lightning Round Relationship Activity

Attendees participated in a brief icebreaker activity.

V. Strategic Plan

A. Strategic Plan

A. Bothner asked participants to consider and develop three to five areas for the Board to focus on over the next three to five years. Based on a survey that Trustees filled out about strategic priorities and goals, the discussion centered around the following ideas:
• Improved prioritization of community relations
• Evaluate short-term/long-term financial governance structures that best serve our students
• Determine a board governance structure focused on development/fundraising/community
• Always students first!
• Ensure we are meeting the needs of our children to the best of our ability by connecting them with the best resources available
• Actively work to counter systemic injustices that affect our students

Participants discussed what each goal looks like five years out, three years out, and next year. A. Bothner explained that specific next steps will be developed based on the goals set in this discussion. Participants found that developing a strong school presence and "brand" in the community would be key to meeting many goals, including building community relationships, making use of community resources, and fundraising. The need for the Board to be held accountable to the community and all stakeholders was also highlighted. In order for the school to work to promote equality and justice for its students, it should also seek to be a leader in the space.

VI. Debrief Survey

A. Debrief Survey

Participants reflected on how the discussion and strategic goal-setting went during the meeting, and clarified next steps.

VII. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

A. Bothner made a motion to Enter executive session to discuss a corporate employment matter.
E. Chen seconded the motion.
A. Khanyile, S. Huda, C. Barnes, and K. Shabazz were also invited to join.
The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

J. Boulet made a motion to exit Executive Session.
A. Bothner seconded the motion.
The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
J. Boulet made a motion to approve sending a joint reflection email on current events to staff.
M. Dorrie seconded the motion.
The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
J. Boulet made a motion to ratify the actions discussed regarding the corporate employment matter.
A. Khatiwada seconded the motion.
The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
A. Khatiwada made a motion to adjourn.
M. Dorrie seconded the motion.
The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Boulet

Documents used during the meeting

- DRAFT - MetLCS Board Strategic Plan 2020_v1_05252020.xlsx