



Board of Directors Minutes

Hope Tolson Campus
Regular Board Meeting/Virtual Zoom Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 2022
5:30 p.m. ET

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair at 5:36 PM.

II. Roll Call

Board Member	Present	Absent
Austin Alderdice	X	
Anisa Bailey	X	
Shereefat Balogun		X
Allison Barr	X	
Rebecca Doherty	X	
Neha Patel	X	
Susan Sabella	X	
Kerry Smith	X	

a. Approval of Board Agenda

Motion: Neha Patel

Support: Allison Barr

The board unanimously voted to approve the board agenda.

b. Approval of Board Minutes from March 24, 2022

Motion: Susan Sabella

Support: Anisa Bailey

The board unanimously voted to approve the board minutes.

III. CMO Report

a. The academic support update was provided by Alexis Giles.

The school's focus is on formative assessments taken every two weeks for grades K-8; K-2 had the most growth in the building; 3-8 – focused on rich text, vocabulary, main idea comprehension and written responses related to read text; 64% of the scholars in grades K-8 completed the close reading assessment. A number of EOY assessments are being taken by scholars grade K-8; PARCC – Math and Reading completed by 308 scholars; K-2 scholars will take the NWEA Map assessment and we'll look at the growth there then move on to grades 3-8.

b. The state of the school report was presented by Okiemute Pela and Kierra Jenkins.

The enrollment team is in progress to achieve the goal of increasing enrollment by 30% in grades K-3; continue to host a lot of events and academic initiatives – showcasing on Facebook and Instagram – capturing the scholars in the moment.

Dean of Culture and Climate has been good at being inclusive with families; working on summer event schedules (enrollment events) – expected to be finalized by 5/27; engaging both families that have enrolled and those that have been added but haven't gone through the enrollment process.

Kierra, the student enrollment coordinator for Hope Tolson – 266 Scholars total – no withdrawals for month of May – hopeful that that will stay at 0 until the end of May. We track why individuals leave and categorize as dissatisfaction or other – generally appear to be for commute or other personal reasons. Hope plans to open up our bussing to open enrollment to other wards. Out of 266, 232 are returning (we reached our re-enrollment goal).

2022-2023 SY – Application goal is 250, have already received 77 applications. Recruiting strategies include virtual tours, community partnerships, canvassing, summer events, etc. 82.83% in seat attendance for May. Making sure our expectations are lined up with OSSE. Attributing the rate to ongoing COVID challenges. Continue to see issues with Friday attendance. As of May – we've seen increased out of school suspensions and in school suspensions – related to behavior issues.

c. The financial update was given by Eva Spilker.

Net income \$0.1m; 150 days of cash with ending cash of \$3.6m; essentially a break even budget for next year; ESSER-related funds will drop off as we move into SY 2024.

IV. Committee Updates

a. Finance Committee goals for next year: 1) Budget and operate for solid surplus for next year; 2) Clean audits; 3) Ensure the Board as a whole has a full understanding of what the budget represents (transparency); 4) Budget is consistent with our goal of moving towards a Tier 1 school; 5) Last one is not a goal but the responsibilities of the finance committee.

b. Governance Committee goals presented by Kerry – working with EBP to get a refresh on governance best practices: 1) Ongoing recruitment of new board members – goal is to have 9 active members; 2) Reviewing and implementing basic governance policies; 3) Focus on orienting new board members before they participate actively especially those with non-education-related experience; 4) Working towards meetings every other month; 5) Getting back to in-person meetings (maybe on campus)

c. Academic Excellence Committee goals presented by Rebecca – Anisa will be joining and serving as the chair of this committee. Goals: 1) Being clear on what the role of the committee is, visible on campus, problem solving – committee will look to schedule onsite activities; 2) Be intentional about expeditionary learning; 3) Curriculum alignment – looking at different types of curricula that is available and comparing to what we have and what is available; 4) Implementing

a writing program; 5) Tackling summer learning loss - scholars reading below grade level need to be monitored as well as those that can improve.

V. New Business/Action Items

a. Summer Advantage (SA) Service Agreement - presented by Nonzwakazi Hill. SA is 5-week academic mentoring program for children grades K-8 – includes guest speakers, field trips, academics and other engagement. Free to scholars who are a part of Hope; free meals (breakfast and lunch); use current assessments and compare to future assessments to assess success of the program.

i. Rollcall – Approved: Allison, Kerry, Neha, Susan, Anisa, Rebecca
The board has moved to implement the Summer Advantage Service Program.

b. Raise the Bar Initiative - pay Increases for 2022-2023 School Year presented by Cathy Kendrick – total increase of \$111,463 across the board (3%).

ii. To be revisited at next board meeting.

c. Chromebooks Expenditure – presented by Tahirah Thompson.

iii. Kerry moved to approve \$27,610.05 to purchase Chromebooks for the SOAR grant for the Math Advantage program contingent on us receiving the context for why we’re making this purchase by end of business tomorrow; Anisa seconded.

Rollcall - Approved: Kerry, Anisa, Allison, Susan, Neha, Rebecca

VI. Old Business

a. Retention Analysis – request for detailed survey feedback – in December sent out intent-to-return survey; have a local recruiter on the ground in DC – has a recruitment season where she goes out to community partners, career fairs and universities; check our sourcing to see what the most effective route is; we have an ATS that sends positions to over a dozen job boards; also passively sourced.

VII. Open Communication / Public Comments

None

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and go into a Closed Session to discuss business matters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Motion: Susan Sabella

Support: Allison Barr

Yay: 5

Nay: 0

The board unanimously voted to adjourn and move to Closed Session.