

**ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS CHARTER SCHOOL**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

August 20, 2024

This meeting was held via Zoom. Mr. Larry Griffin, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:03p.m. Notice of the meeting had been properly given and a quorum was met.

**ATTENDEES**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

- Mr. Larry Griffin – Board President
- Ms. Felicia Parker-Cox – Board Member
- Dr. Jayminn DeShields – Board Member
- Archbishop Mary Floyd – Board Member
- Ms. Karen Trawick- Board Secretary
- Mr. James Caldwell – Board Member

**STAFF:**

- Ms. Stacey Scott – CEO
- Mr. Brian Cameron – Principal

**VISITORS:**

Leigh Ann Bonck – OmniVest

**Old Business:**

None

**Public Comment:**

None

**New Business:**

Lot Purchase Update – Larry Griffin  
Non-profit finance fund did approve a loan of \$612k to purchase the lot; currently in the process of closing. OmniVest hoping to get a close by the end of the month. The sellers have been very patient. Since the underwriting period by NFF, took so long, we were not able to meet the timeframe to close on the land in order to be eligible for the playground build opportunity, which was presented months earlier. The current plan is to remove the iron structure and shred from the lot, resod the land, and just use as playspace. Will still keep in contact with Kaboom, in hopes of revisiting plans of an actual playground next year. If that falls through, we may

**Approval of the Minutes for June 17, 2024** All approved, no abstentions. Upon motion duly moved, seconded, and carried, the Board has approved the minutes from the last meeting on \_June 17 2024

VOTE SUMMARY OF EACH MEMBER				
Mr. Larry Griffin	Initiated Motion	Yes		
Felicia Parker-Cox	Motion to Approve	Yes		
Dr. Jayminn DeShields	2 <sup>nd</sup> Motion	Yes		

**Financial Report (Budget) 2024-2025** - Leigh Ann Bonck

School net income for EOY (Preliminary/Soft close): \$1,140,986

Above budget by \$824k

Revenues above budget by \$860k

Expenses above budget by only 3\$7k

The ESSER III contributed to the amount by \$567k (The 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the elementary school, professional development, curriculum, and funds retention bonuses.)

Tuition from School District of Philadelphia is above budget by \$31k

The school received the Elevate 215 Grant, which offsets some professional development and instructional coaching costs.

Fundraising (including Athletics) were a net loss. (School Fundraising: \$32k, and Athletics \$8k)

Spirit of Alliance \$4k loss

Uniform Sales: net loss of \$9,800. Assuming there is inventory at the school, the stock can be sold and accounted for, a higher revenue source v. expense.

PCCD School Safety below budget (\$25k) recognized \$10k (School had until the end of July 2024 to use the funds)

SS would like to apply for those funds (\$70K) again for this school year. OmniVest will send out an email shortly

PCCD Mental Health above budget by \$39k, funds for counselor’s salary and benefits

Expansion Grant above budget by \$115k for furniture purchased for 4<sup>th</sup> floor

ESSER III- school will have to utilize full funding by September 30<sup>th</sup>

ESSER II was fully utilized, used more in 2022-2023 below budget by \$80k, recognized \$164k

Personnel and benefits below budget by \$520k

Special Education Transportation Services above budget by (\$139K), includes accrual of \$80K

Other contracted services below budget:

-Speech (\$74k), OT/PT (\$39k), Psychology Services (\$22k)

Legal settlements above budget by \$39k (3 unbudgeted settlements)

Educational Materials above budget by \$51k

Miscellaneous programs above budget by \$100k

Building Expenses above budget by \$73k (This was expected. Surplus from other items were used to supplement these costs.)

Operations & Maintenance above budget by \$26k

The \$1.1 million income does not carry over. It contributes to the equity of the school and support future capital projects the school may have.

Upon motion duly moved, seconded, and carried, the Board approved the Budget for SY 2024-2025 as presented by Leigh Ann Bonck. Dr. Jayminn DeShields approved the motion to accept; Karen Trawick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VOTE SUMMARY OF EACH MEMBER				
Mr. Larry Griffin	Initiated Motion	Yes	Archbishop Mary Floyd	Yes
Dr. Jayminn DeShields	Motion to Approve	Yes	Felicia Parker-Cox	Yes

Karen Trawick	2 <sup>nd</sup> Motion	Yes		

**Principal Report** – Brian Cameron

Review of last few weeks of summer (July – August) and preparation of students returning to school.

Teacher retention

Focused on reducing the number of suspensions

Teacher coaching (SkyRocket) was implemented

Intense, but sometimes awkward practice sessions were held. End results will be better trained/prepared teachers and students.

Leadership Team is consistently making strides to improve better teacher performance and training

Yearly Theme: Believe. Plan. Achieve!

PVAAS results (growth indicator) show improvement, however, still working on better ways to increase better overall performance

Will forward these results to all Board members

**CEO Report** – Stacey Scott

Structures put in place during the summer. Growth and excitement around the Leadership team selected.

-Two academic leaders now: Brian Cameron & Mrs. Abdullah

-BC is specifically targeting grades 3-8. Will have 2 coaches under him for Math and ELA.

-Changed from instructional to content-specific coaches

Early Childhood Program (Mrs. Abdullah) K-2

Data analyst was hired to review information collected for MasteryConnect

All data will funnel to data analyst for review

**June 2024 Safe Schools Report: (Brian Cameron & Stacey Scott)**

Suspensions: 232 reported

Main concern is 5<sup>th</sup> grade

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher is returning. She wanted to be moved, but it was encouraged that she stays with that grade.

It will be her second year.

Bit of a challenge with 6<sup>th</sup> graders moving to the other building (October/ November)

A few incidents with SPED students, which contributed to the suspension numbers

-Working closely w/ Climate team. The additional training has been provided

Want to reduce the number of suspensions. Many processes have been added to prepare the teacher on how to handle various situations before leading to suspension.

Levels of insubordination was the main cause. Fighting was not very common. It was realized that one teacher needed additional training, and the disruptive behavior would tend to occur with the specific teacher. The Leadership Team recognized this and stepped in. Properly training teachers can prevent the escalation that can lead to suspension.

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**Enrollment**

Currently, enrollment is 667, which is 21 students over target.

K- 81

Grade 1- 77

Grade 2- 74

Grade 3- 78

Grade 4- 78

Grade 5- 75

Grade 6- 76

Grade 7- 78 (added a 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort this year 2024-2025)

Grade 8- 50 (will add a 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort next year 2025-2026)

The waitlist is currently 1879, with 6<sup>th</sup> grade being the largest demand at 287.

### **Legal Issues:**

SS would like to find new legal counsel for the school. Current firm, McKenna has represented AFPCS since 2004. The time has come to move in a different direction. We are living in a more litigious society, which means we need counsel that will be prepared and diligent, especially with the increase of SPED lawsuits, post pandemic. There has been turnover in his office, and representation has been inconsistent over the past three years. The one attorney that truly fought passionately for AFPCS is no longer there (Carolyn Flynn). Placed in the Leadership package is the bio and portfolio is Pat Hennessey. SS would like to transfer AFPCS's representation to Pat's firm. Pat has provided a fee sheet for the Board to review. SS and Larry had discussed this matter earlier in the day, and he would like to "interview" Pat before moving to her firm. Archbishop Mary voiced concern that maybe parents somehow believed AFPCS had created an environment that made parents feel confident and comfortable to sue consistently. SS acknowledged that this was an issue that was constantly plaguing charter schools. It has been determined that settlements have been the way to go for both parties (school & parents-student). SS feels that due process is not on the forefront, nor is the interest of fighting on the school's behalf. BC agreed with SS's sentiment. The current attorney is not looking out for AFPCS's best interest. Jim Caldwell wanted to make sure that the Board would have the opportunity to interview Pat as well. Dr. Jayminn DeShields raised questions about Pat's state admittance, and how her potential interaction with AFCPS came to be. She acknowledged that AFPCS needed to go in another legal direction, since McKenna's motivation only appeared to be settling, and not fighting lawsuits. Pat does come highly recommended, at the suggestion of SS's CEO colleagues. Also, Dr. Shields wanted to know if the fees were comparable to what the fees are now. Partners are billing at \$300/hr. Larry acknowledged that it was cheaper than what AFPCS is currently paying McKenna. Karen Trawick was more cautious, especially since this was the same route the Board went when selecting McKenna-he was highly recommended, and now his work leaves much to be desired. SS is open to doing the legwork regarding searching for and vetting new legal representation. Charter school and legal fields have evolved greatly over the past 20 years. Larry suggests looking closely at all new potential legal candidates. Felecia Parker-Cox wanted to know the terms of a potential contract. SS stated that McKenna was an automatic renewal. She proposed a renewal for the next few years, while the relationship is developing. Also, concern over backlash from severing ties with McKenna was mentioned. Larry suggested that the new firm address that concern. Kevin (from McKenna) and SS have had discussions regarding the disconnect and unhappiness from AFPCS. He stated that he is willing to part ways - no harm, no foul. SS has also mentioned that this year, she will be looking into the trusts that were created for the children- after these settlements. If the funds haven't be used, then she will try to retrieve them. In conclusion, SS will start the vetting process for AFPCS's new legal representation.

**High Retention Rates:**

Makes implementation of processes so much simpler. Consistency is key when aiming for success.

Current scale: \$54 (Teachers with BA & 3 years of experience)

- not competitive at all in this market
- need to work on salary scale and make competitive ASAP
- teachers have left because of salary
- working on teacher certification (6) in October
- if AFPCS pays, the teachers will be asked to sign a 2-year contract (if passage occurs)

**Changes (2) in the handbooks:**

- Staff (Blackout dates)
- Student/Parent handbook (upgrading the discipline system)

Dojo and banners alert students of school's closing

SS suggested a Board retreat. Karen suggested at least one meeting in-person

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

Respectfully Submitted

Maya A. Singletary