

Trailblazers Academy
Board of Directors
March 1, 2019
8:00am
Community Room
83 Lockwood Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902

Attendees: Craig Baker, Miguel Pickering, Jamie Waggaman, Steve Baker, Julia Snowden, Curtis Battles, Michael McGuire

Guest speakers: Mary Martin (7th/8th grade social studies teacher), Christina Gjuarj (special education teacher)

Phoned in: Gary Goldberg, Owen Davis

Not present: Angie Tortorella, Edwin Naval

Agenda:

- **Welcome**
- **Governance**
- **School director's report**
- **Teacher Funding Projects**

- **Financial Report/ Fundraising & Development**
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Introduction: Steve Baker, Board Chairman

- Approval of last month's board meeting notes
Motion seconded, and approved unanimously

Governance Items:

- Update from Julia – Following feedback/updates from Shipman and Goodwin on each document, it was determined to have board members review and provide questions and comments two weeks from today, to be sent to Shipman and Goodwin for incorporation so we can get a final draft of the documents.
 - Bylaws – Steve and Julia
 - Employee handbook specific to Trailblazers Academy – Curt and Steve
 - Accounting Policies and Procedures – Gary, Owen, Edwin and Auditors to review
- School policies of Trailblazers have been under review as well, which is separate from the Board's policies
 - 5 different series
 - Every policy that governs the school, this is voluminous and drafts will be available from school/Domus to circulate to the board soon.
 - Trailblazers policies use as a base the school policies from Stamford Academy and model charter policies, some are federal and state laws, and some are our best practice

- To be reviewed and implemented by the board and school by early next school year after updates are complete, presented to the board and board has reviewed. Goal is to have documents that will stay in place for a period rather than need to be updated for each school year (i.e. not a specific reference to current roster of teachers).

School Director Report (school director, Miguel Pickering)

- Enrollment
 - 127 students currently enrolled
- Attendance - tied to SSP goals for students, year to date 95%, went to 94%. 14 students with the chronically absent. Discussed approaches via family advocates to addressing those students.
- Suspensions
 - A slight increase in in-school and out of school suspensions last month
 - To help these students' families, we have included outside agencies as well as family advocates in interventions
 - "The Scoop of S.E.L" (social and emotional learning)
 - Spearheaded by Ms. Shinn, the Director of Family Advocates
 - Online blog with updated information pertaining to our students' social and emotional growth, activities, and successes
 - Engaged with outside members of the community for social and emotional learning goals
 - Girl Scouts, Stamford Police Department
 - 8th grade girls created care bags for members of the community who needed help
 - Mindfulness activities to recognize the strengths each student has
- **Black Excellence Night – African American history month projects**
 - Event held on 2/28/19 during the evening
 - Free event for students, staff, and families
 - Steppers performed, food was served, presentations performed (student read self-written poetry), student-made posters of famous men/women of color hung up around the school
- **Teacher Funding Presentations to be funded by Board Fund**
 - Mary Martin - 7th/8th grade social studies teacher
 - SBAC preparations
 - Pep rally to include breakfast, t-shirts, goody bags to encourage engagement and taking testing seriously.
 - Christina Gjuraj – Special Education Teacher
 - Funding for special education students' resources including Linda Mood Bell Program, Scholastic Articles, Slant Boards, OT Supports
 - Full board to vote electronically following the meeting.

Treasurers report – Mike McGuire filling in for Edwin

- Presented financials
- Individual donor donation of \$300,000 brings Domus additional amount beyond their commitment down to \$400,000 approximately.
- SIG instructional supplies and purchase of computers make up difference in OTPS, this will be allocated in future financials.

Adjourned at 9:00am.