

**Trailblazers Academy**  
**Board of Directors**  
**September 29, 2017**  
**8:00am**  
**School Library**  
**83 Lockwood Avenue**  
**Stamford, Connecticut 06902**

**Attendees:** Michael McGuire, Kathy Miranda (former student), Miguel Pickering, Jamie Waggaman, Bianca Shinn, Owen Davis, Steve Baker, Angie Tortarella, Julia Snowden, Chris Emly (guest), Curtis Battles, Gary Goldberg (phoned in)

- I. Meeting Starts: Introductions by Steve Baker, Chair
- II. Prospective Board Member: Paul Cologne
- III. Agenda Overview: Steve Baker,
  - a. Community and Public relations (initiatives) to attract families to our school
  - b. Can we make our meetings more data driven? How are we doing? How are we measuring our initiatives? Are we being successful?
- IV. Alumin Presentation: Kathy Miranda, former student here at Trailblazers Academy
  - a. Was the Trailblazers Academy Lion of the Year winner in 2016
  - b. sophomore at Trinity Catholic High School.
  - c. playing soccer, member of the multicultural club and business club, and will be participating in the spring musical.
  - d. enjoys the small class size at TC, just like a TA
  - e. Beginning to look at colleges
- V. Miguel Pickering: Director at Trailblazers Academy
  - a. new staff, 5/13 teachers
  - b. Completion of the beginning of the year STAR assessments (reading/math)
  - c. had conferences with students about their scores
  - d. targeted interventions for RTI on the computer-based program, Moby Max
  - e. 1 Teach for America, science teacher
  - f. interview process and the pool of prospective teaching applicants
  - g. Biggest struggle for leadership team is enrollment (current enrollment: 124 students)
  - h. Lost 22 incoming 6th graders this year; How do we prevent students from withdrawing?
  - i. Figure out a way to get the positives that we do at TA out into the community
  - j. Board member suggested that we bring former students to recruitment
  - k. Summer program for incoming 6th graders, family advocates were checking in, completing home visits

- VI. Michael McGuire: Director of Teacher Support for Domus Kids
  - a. two staff received “exemplary” scores on their SEED evaluations for the 2016-2017 school year
  - b. Competitive salaries, but at TA there’s not collective bargaining, mission fit piece that the teachers we hire believe in what Domus Kids Core principles are
  - c. 3-5 years teacher retention rate for teachers
  - d. Make a more planful effort to help make the summer program more robust
  - e. 130 ideal number for enrollment, as been as high as 178 students (2010)
  
- VII. Bianca Shinn: Director of Family Advocates
  - a. Looking at our model, giving our students what they need
  - b. Summer program to take on field trips (would require funding)
  - c. Ongoing process, hope to have a plan by this coming winter
  - d. Spoke to students’ placements for high school 2016-2017- data driven decision making including attendance, behavior, and assessment scores
  
- VIII. Steve Baker: Chair
  - a. Set up a community/public relations committee
  - b. How do we start? Align ourselves with someone who is in public relations
  - c. What are our goals? What are we trying to achieve here at TA?
  
- IX. Owen Davis: member
  - a. Shared personal success story of a former student, Cyrus Robinson
  - b. senior at AITE, and a member of the robotics team
  - c. Interested in going to Wesleyan University
  
- X. Finance Report: Edwin Naval, CFO, Domus
  - a. Annual Operating Budget – Unanimous Approval