

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