

The Trailblazers Academy & Stamford Academy Board Meeting was held on January 27, 2017 in the Domus Community, Room, 83 Lockwood Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Steve Baker, Chair of Trailblazers Academy, with the following Board members present: Curtis Battles, Jamie Waggaman, Angie Tortorella, Owen Davis, Gary Goldberg, and Phyllis Alston. The following Board member(s) called in: Julia Snowden, Nicole Arnold (perspective board member). The following Board members were absent: and. Also in attendance: Craig Baker, Miguel Pickering, Edwin Naval, Michael McGuire, and Ike Anyaoku (GE, perspective board member)

Response to CEA review/report

1. Our message
 - a. When Domus opened TA in 1999, our goal was to be champions for struggling children
 - b. We wanted to open the schools to give these struggling children more, not less
 - c. Op ed will run in The Stamford Advocate and the Connecticut Post
 - d. Programed PR process for both schools (not on the defensive all the time)
 - e. We want to educate the community on who and what we are
 - f. Our charter is to educate the disenfranchised and the disengaged
 - g. We want to be held accountable to a similar cohort
2. Larger context- funding
 - a. CT is in a deficit
 - b. State budget cuts being made- education will absorb some of that
3. SPS \$18,000 per pupil, TA or SA \$ 11, 000 per pupil
 - a. SA/TA wants equal funding
4. Domus and Achievement First- management fees too high (CEA claim)
 - a. Michael Duggan's salary is allocated to each charter school. For that allocation, he raises significant private funding to support the two schools.
5. Stamford Advocate article
 - a. Craig met with the Stamford Advocate reporter, Nelson- was asked about the slant which at the time, the reporter was unclear
 - b. Photographer came and took pictures of our kids
 - c. After the article came out, Craig voiced his displeasure to the reporter and the title of the article was changed in the online version
6. Mid-year STAR data
 - a. Key metrics (jumping off points)
 - i. SGP or student growth percentile compares a student's growth to that of his or her academic peers nationwide
 - ii. Lexile score- "the numeric representation of an individual's reading ability or text's readability)
 - iii. Grade equivalent or GE- compares your child's performance of grade-level material against the average performance of students at other grade levels on that same material and is reported in terms of grade level and months
 - iv. What are the reasons why students are coming to us significantly behind their academic grade levels? (3-4 grade levels) behavior/SPED/non-English speakers/social emotional growth
 - v. Getting the message out to the community and the government about who we are and what we do here at Trailblazers
7. Fieldtrip today to see "Hidden Figures"
 - a. Open up the dialogue about race and women's equality

- b. Continue to encourage females to pursue information in the fields of mathematics and science
- 8. Art program reopened
 - a. Encouraging students to pursue their artistic talents
- 9. Edwin Naval, CFO of Domus
 - a. Budget overview
 - i. Overtime due to behavior staff who are driving students to Bridgeport, Norwalk, and other parts of Stamford that do not receive buses
 - ii. Holiday bonuses for staff
 - b. Any overages, Miguel and Craig will figure out and send information to Edwin
 - c. Chromebooks
 - d. Policy on reporting on DNO claims
 - e. SA requested an increase, Domus increased both schools to \$3,000,000
 - i. DNO need to be made immediately, not within 60 days
 - ii. Board will need to review and next meeting will have to vote on it
 - f. Craig Baker has been removed from check signing
 - g. Francesca Principe, Miguel Pickering, Michael McGuire, and Steve Baker have been assigned the signatories
 - h. Any check below \$250, one signature, between \$251-\$4999 two signatures, and above \$5,000 needs to be approved by the board (Steve made a motion to the board to vote. Motion was passed by the board.)
- 10. Steve Baker
 - a. The idea of periodically reviewing the banking is fine, but having it be a managerial job would not be a board function
 - b. Need to approve the minutes of the last meeting in December 2016 (motion approved)
 - c. Steve adjourned the meeting at 9:10am
 - d. TA board will follow up with the SDE