

The Trailblazers Academy Board Meeting was held on December 16, 2016 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, Julia Snowden, Jamie Waggaman, and Phyllis Alston. The following Board member(s) called in: Gary Goldberg. The following Board members were absent: Owen Davis and Angie Tortorella. Also in attendance: Craig Baker, Miguel Pickering, and Edwin Naval.

- I. Welcome by Chairman, Steve Baker
 - a. Charter renewal: Amendments between Domus and Trailblazers Academy
 - i. Contract reviewed and discussed
 - ii. TA Charter renewal hearing at Wright Tech on Tuesday, 12/20/16 from 6pm-8pm)
 1. Asking for support to come out and speak on behalf of Trailblazers.
 - b. Annual reviews between Trailblazers Academy and Domus
 - i. Board will evaluate Domus Kids services on a yearly basis based on the performance rubric, one approved by the State Department of Education
 - ii. Specific artifacts that we are looking for the level of services we are receiving will be identified
 - iii. Next board meeting suggestion: to set up committees to review the annual evaluation terms for Domus Kids
 1. Each committee would be responsible for a set of criteria
 - iv. Family Advocates will be moved back to being employees of the school based on recommendation of the State Department of Education
 - c. Connecticut State Department of Education will report on February 2017 if Trailblazers Academy has been renewed for 1, 3, or 5 years
 - d. Miguel Pickering and Mike McGuire will have check signing rights. Any purchases \$5,000 and over, will need the Trailblazers Academy's Board's approval.
- II. Financials with Chief Financial Officer, Edwin Naval
 - a. Auditors reviewed information in November 2016 found there were no weaknesses on financial statements
 - b. Waiting on federal grants from the lunch program and a Title 1 grant
 - c. Every Student Success
 - d. Motion to approve FY16 audited financials - Approved by Trailblazers Academy Board
- III. Steve Baker and Chief Education Officer, Craig Baker
 - a. Movement to approve Finn Dixon & Herling as a service provider motioned by Steve Baker, it was seconded, and approved by the Board.
 - b. \$75,000 Grant - Will Casper Graustein Memorial Fund
 - i. school equity through curriculum
 - c. 8th Grade Social Studies curriculum more based in literacy skills and content
 - i. Add much more perspective of oppressed people
 - d. reDesign will be involved, have review sessions, and give feedback
 - i. hoping to unroll in Fall of 2017
 - e. McMahan Foundation grant: 50 Chromebook with carts to charge and portability
 - f. Rotary Foundation grant for \$15,000 to support literacy curriculum
 - i. books on varying levels to meet student needs

- g. Trailblazers Academy mid-year data testing begins the week students return from Christmas break – January 2017
 - i. Looking to create a real test investment for the students this January
 - ii. Growth contest (in both STAR reading & math)
 - iii. Measure growth through grade equivalency (raffle ticket for each point to enter to win prizes)
 - h. Teacher Success Plan
 - i. 4 week sprint plan - Each teacher to focus on a need of that teacher
 - ii. 1 specific measurable thing teacher wants to improve on (ex. Want to see a higher levels of student engagement)
 - i. SSPs (Student Success Plan)
 - i. Focus on academic, behavior, and attendance goals
 - ii. Long term & short term goals
 - iii. Frequent check-ins between SSP advisor (teacher, family advocate, directors, behavior staff and support) and their assigned child
 - j. Enrollment: 131 students, currently
 - i. 3 new 8th graders started recently for a variety of reasons
 - ii. Trailblazers Academy has open seats
 - 1. Legally required to accept more students
 - iii. From a mission standpoint, we would like the opportunity to service all youth and give them an opportunity to be successful
 - k. Motion to approve Minutes from November's Meeting
 - i. All in favor
- IV. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m.