

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2019

6:00 - 8:40 pm

Held at Mastery Charter School John Wister Campus, Room 212
67 E. Bringhurst Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19144

Roll Call:

Board Members: Bob Victor, Graham Finney, Hosea Harvey, Suzanne Biemiller, Sulaiman Rahman, Stacey Sellers, Robin Olanrewaju, Judith Tschirgi (phone), Gerry Emery (phone); Absent: Don Kimelman; Quorum: 9/10 members

Staff: Scott Gordon, Joe Ferguson, Yonca Agatan, Vanessa Benton, Tom Greenwood, Michelle Brown, Francina Girard, Michael Patron, Jeff Pestrak, Michelle Brown, Jessica Varevice, Jonas Crenshaw, Bob O'Donnell (counsel); By phone: Laura Clancy

Bob Victor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

DISCUSSION: 6:00 - 6:55pm

- K-2 English program proposal (Jessica Varevice):
 - Presented recommendation that all Mastery schools adopt KIPP Wheatley ELA curriculum as part of K-2 literacy model starting SY2019-20.
 - K-2 ELA Comprehensive Literacy Framework:
 - All K-2 students become proficient readers and writers and develop a love for literacy through:
 - Foundations: Systematic, high-quality phonics instruction to help our students learn to decode
 - Reading Centers: Guided reading that provides differentiated small group instruction at student's current reading level and independent work opportunities to develop skills
 - Wheatley: Standards-aligned reading and writing program that supports students in accessing complex texts
 - Intervention: Provides struggling students with additional practice to master foundational skills
 - Wheatley Data Highlights:
 - Mastery Prep Elementary:
 - Exceeded K-2 Wheatley pilot success criteria
 - Second highest K-2 reading growth in the first semester among all Mastery schools
 - 100% of surveyed staff reported that Wheatley helped them deliver and support Common Core-aligned instruction
 - KIPP New Jersey:
 - Increased PARCC ELA Elementary proficiency rates by 11% 2015-17

- ASPIRE – Memphis:
 - Significant improvement in % of students who met or exceeded MAP growth expectations in 1st and 2nd grade
- Calendar Strategy (Jonas Crenshaw):
 - Goal has been to create a calendar with predictable logic that maximizes instructional time and solves the problem of noise (PA & NJ calendars not synced, employee concerns).
 - Working group was formed, teachers surveyed, parent committee and board feedback was gathered and taken into consideration for the presentation of the final calendar proposal.
 - Final calendar proposal:
 - Starting 2 days later in August
 - Keeping key religious holidays
 - Alignment to SDP calendar for holidays
 - A full week of spring break
 - Recognition of Veteran’s day in-school
 - Ending by 2nd week in June
 - Adding back days by cutting back data days to ½ day
- Secondary Grading (Jonas Crenshaw)
 - The strategy has been based around the goal of creating a grading policy that reinforces high expectations, maximizes student motivation, and produces transcripts that are acceptable to colleges. Also to address problems with consistent grading practices, grade inflation, grading scale, retention policy, and summer school.
 - Working group was formed, teachers surveyed, parent committee and board feedback was gathered.
 - Final secondary grading proposal:
 - Grading Philosophy:
 - A grade is supposed to provide an accurate, undiluted indicator of a student’s mastery of learning standards. (Wormeli 2006)
 - Purpose of Grading (Marzano 2000)
 - Administrative Functions, feedback about student achievement, guidance, instructional planning, and motivation
 - Student Grade Composition:
 - Grades are only aligned to student work:
 - Summative Assessments = 70%
 - Major Assessments, class projects, major essays, and papers
 - Formative Assessments = 30%
 - Classwork, quizzes, labs, and homework (Accuracy)

- Other indicators are listed on report card in rubric score but do not count as a part of the student's grade:
 - Homework Completion, participation, mindset
- Benchmark Assessment:
 - Counts as one (1) Summative Assessment
- Grading Scale with Quality Points:
 - 10-point scale
 - Students receive numeric grades on report cards.
 - 65 is threshold for pass/fail
 - Students receive quality points aligned with a D (1) for receiving a 65.
 - Students can pass with a D
 - Honors courses receive separate quality point weighting.
 - AP/Dual enrollment, and college placement courses receive more weighting than honors courses
- Credit Recovery:
 - Students must pass at least one half of a core content course to eligible to recover credit.
 - Instructional standards in credit recovery are aligned to standards of failed semester of the course.
 - Blended Learning
 - May be offered during the school year.
 - After School
 - Saturday
 - Student must pass with a minimum grade of 65%.
 - Student must document no less than 45 hours of seat and online work time.
 - Transcript documentation
 - P/F
 - Quality points aligned with "C" are averaged into GPA
 - Original grade appears on transcript.
 - Credit recovery course appears on transcript
- Transfer Student Documentation for Grade Placement:
 - Transfer students must provide a transcript or final report cards from all grades attended in high school.
 - Students who cannot provide such documentation after one month will be placed in ninth grade.
- Transfer Student Transcripts:
 - Transcripts must be generated in E-School within one week of a transfer student's enrollment.

- Proposed grading scale:

		General	Honors	AP and Dual Enrollment
A	93-100	4	4.5	5
A-	90-92	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	87-89	3.33	3.84	4.33
B	83-86	3	3.5	4
B-	80-82	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	77-79	2.33	2.84	3.33
C	73-76	2	2.5	3
C-	70-72	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+	67-69	1.33	1.84	2.33
D	65-66	1	1.5	2
F	Below 65	0	0	0

BUSINESS MEETING (called to order at 7:00 pm)

Action Resolutions

- **Approval of the minutes from the January 23, 2019 Board Meeting:**

R-022719-01 (All Boards)

Resolved, to accept the minutes of the Board meetings of Mastery Charter High School, Mastery Charter Thomas Campus, Mastery Charter Shoemaker Campus, Mastery Charter Pickett Campus, Mastery Charter Mann Elementary, Mastery Charter Harrity Elementary, Mastery Charter Smedley Elementary, Hardy Williams Academy Mastery Charter, Simon Gratz High School Mastery Charter, Mastery Charter Clymer Elementary, Grover Cleveland Mastery Charter, Pastorius-Richardson Mastery Charter, Frederick Douglass Mastery Charter, Mastery Charter John Wister Campus, and Mastery Prep Elementary Charter School from January 23, 2019.

After board discussion the following resolutions were adopted:

Motion to approve R-022719-01: Sulaiman Rahman, Second: Hosea Harvey; Motion passes with unanimous approval.

- **Human Resources**

R-022719-02 (All Boards)

Resolved, to ratify Mastery Charter Schools staff hired between January 12, 2019 and February 15, 2019 as presented.

After board discussion the following resolutions were adopted:

Motion to approve R-022719-02: Hosea Harvey, Second: Graham Finney; Motion passes with unanimous approval.

Development Report

- The Mayor's Fund awarded Pickett \$5,000 for its Driver's Ed pilot course, which is currently a barrier for students to obtain entrance into many technical programs and job opportunities post-graduation.
- BeMarketing/ShopCore supported Pickett's Winter Wish program with \$6,750 in cash and \$6,750 in gift cards to ShopRite, Ross, and Five Below

Finance & Compliance

R-022719-03 (All Boards)

Resolved, to appoint CliftonLarsonAllen ("CLA") to perform audit and tax services for all Mastery schools for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

After presentation by Yonca Agatan and questions by the board members the following resolution was adopted:

Motion to approve R-022719-03: Susan Biemiller, Second: Bob Victor; Motion passes with unanimous approval.

R-022719-04 (All Boards)

Background: In response to recent guidance from the Department of Education, we have updated our Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy with input from our Title I Stakeholder Committee. This document provides a general description of the ways that Mastery families can partner with their school to improve their child's achievement. New language assures that we remain compliant with Title I regulations.

Resolved, to adopt the updated Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

After presentation by Michael Patron and questions by the board members the following resolutions were adopted:

Motion to approve R-022719-04: Graham Finney, Second: Hosea Harvey; Motion passes with unanimous approval.

Executive Committee & CEO Reports

Session closed at 7:18 pm to discuss personnel; reopened at 7:35 pm.

R-022719-05 (All Boards)

Resolved, to approve Mastery Charter Schools 2019-2020 school year calendar.

After presentation by Jonas Crenshaw and questions by the board members the following resolutions were adopted:

Motion to approve R-022719-05: Sulaiman Rahman, Second: Graham Finney; Motion passes with unanimous approval.

R-022719-06 (All Boards)

Resolved, to adopt the proposed secondary grading policy (attached) effective July 1, 2019.

After presentation by Jonas Crenshaw and questions by the board members the following resolutions were adopted:

Motion to approve R-022719-06: Hosea Harvey, Second: Suzanne Biemiller; Motion passes with unanimous approval.

R-022719-07 (All Boards)

Resolved, to adopt the KIPP Wheatley ELA curriculum as a part of our K-2 literacy model starting in the 2019-2020 school year for all Mastery elementary schools.

After presentation by Jessica Varevice and questions by the board members the following resolutions were adopted:

Motion to approve R-022719-07: Sulaiman Rahman, Second: Hosea Harvey; Motion passes with unanimous approval.

Additional Discussion:

- Spring program priorities were recognized by board:
 - 3-8 KIPP-Wheatley implementation – preparation of training and supports to ensure successful Fall 19’ roll-out (approved by Board, November 2018).
 - K-2 English Language Arts implementation – preparation of training and supports to ensure successful Fall 19’ roll-out (Board approval pending).
 - Teacher retention - implementing teacher retention strategies
 - Secondary scheduling
 - Student learning focus
 - Multiple pathways
- There has been a strong interest at Gratz for CTE, the next lead time to introduce CTE is March 1st. Management requested permission to run a parallel path so that Gratz moves forward, as well as have the Executive Committee make a final decision during the upcoming meeting in April once the survey data is in. Board authorized Executive Committee to make the final decision.

Public Comment (3 minutes per public comment) – no public comment

Adjourn All Boards - meeting closed at 7:59