

Vanguard Classical School (VCS)
Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

4:30 PM

Vanguard East Campus

MINUTES

Attendance

Board Members: Sherry Eastlund, Judy Ham, Sonja Herrera, Chris Jensen, Lisa Sagaser
Staff: Syed Ahmed, Peggy Downs, , Angela Keedy, Judy Trimble

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 PM by Board Chair, Judith Ham.
The pledge of allegiance and roll call took place.

Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the September 6, 2017 Agenda was made by Sherry Eastlund, seconded by Sonja Herrera and passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes

VCS Board Meeting minutes for July 27, 2017 were reviewed, and a motion to approve them was made by Lisa Sagaser, seconded by Sherry Eastlund and passed unanimously.

Honors and Recognition

East - Tyler Peel and the East publications class - Hawk News; Amanda Orihuela - Comprehensive presentation defining a "Classical Education" for both staffs at East and West and to the VCS School Board
Brittany New - for the East Hawk Talk
West - Magdalena Jovanovska-Rivic - publications class student newspaper
Peggy Downs and Angela Schendel Keedy for their dedication and hard work with Judy Ham on VCS's Strategic Plan and for developing thoughtful and proactive VCS Charter Renewal changes and suggestions.

Board President Report

Judy Ham said she really enjoyed the opportunity to work with Peggy Downs and Angie Keedy, as they made significant contributions to updating the VCS Strategic Plan and how they considered and recommended valid and realistic changes in critical elements of the VCS charter. She also commented on how much she enjoyed the VCS Student Council video on U-Tube. She encouraged new board members to utilize the web based Financial Board Module for better understanding along with scheduling a Board work session to develop an even deeper understanding of the VCS financials.

Financial Report

Syed Ahmed has been working with auditors on the FYE 2017 VCS Audit; there has been an adjustment in SPED costs. It was recommended including in the charter renewal that VCS negotiate a fairer reimbursement for SPED services. To date, we are going into FYE 2018 with a positive fund balance, and, at a minimum, we would like to see a repeat of the FYE 2017 fund balance. In addition, there was an extensive discussion on the matter of ACCO refinancing current bonds with the purpose of continuing to support VCS with some building improvements, as well. There is general consensus that VCS progress with the addition of the second campus is on track for meeting academic and financial expectations.

Directors' Reports

APS Charter Renewal

Peggy Downs and Angie Keedy distributed and discussed the current VCS APS Charter and the 2017-2018 Charter School Renewal Application. Board members were asked to review them and provide any additional suggestions for changes or additions.

Strategic Plan Update

Peggy and Angie have been working with Judy Ham on updating the VCS Strategic Plan for 2015-2018 and distributed the revised plan and revised goals for VCS to close the gap. We want 2-3% growth per year. It was noted that we need more emphasis on ELD students and to transform the word "inclusion" to not just be for students with disabilities. Additionally, noted was the increasing need for mental health services for elementary students, and we want a greater emphasis on Mental Health. Board members were asked for input.

Directors' Reports (con't)

Curriculum and Instruction

Peggy Downs has assured the inventory of books, etc. for new classrooms and will review out of date books in use. A wish list has been created. Core Knowledge has updated history and geography materials and is piloting the first quarter of that material on the web. We have downloaded it to print services and are considering rolling it out. She has also been observing teachers in classrooms and providing results to Principals and Ass't Principals.

Assessments

Distributed and discussed were APS 2016-2017 CMAS Growth Summaries for Math and English Language Arts for all Aurora top ten schools and for Aurora's top ten charter schools. Vanguard West and East were in the top 10 all schools and charter schools for English Language Arts and in the top 10 charter schools in Math.

Colorado Department of Education

CDE 2016 School Performance Framework Reports and Colorado's Unified Improvement Plans for 2016-2017 for both schools were distributed and discussed.

Student Recruitment

To obtain additional enrollees, large "ENROLLING NOW" Banners will be going up at both schools. Fall Festivals are planned at both schools, where parents have enrolled additional students and some siblings in the past. Additionally, fliers have gone out to nearby neighborhoods, and enrollment recruitment processes are on Facebook and the web. Also, buddy days are planned, whereby "mentor" students share their experiences and their schools with potential enrollees. There is also a reward system for parents recruiting additional students for VCS schools, which includes a reimbursement of fees.

Enrollment

Currently, there are 498 students enrolled at VCS West and 744 students at VCS East.

Translators

With 13 different languages spoken at West and 22 different languages at East, translators are needed at both schools. West has found voluntary translation help with parents, who have students at the schools.

Donations

VCS East has received a baby grand piano and West is expecting another piano donation. We have also received a large donation of refurbished musical instruments.

VCS By Lines

It was suggested that we develop a Vanguard Classical School byline to go everywhere publicly when our name is present. Some suggestions were as follows: Engage with the past; prepare for the future; belongs to everyone; speaking the truth; and where character and inclusion matter. Board members were asked for additional suggestions.

Old Business

Facilities

Bids are coming in to build an elevator to separate the 6-7-and 8th grades from the high school students. There will be new playground equipment at both schools and the bridge will be replaced this Fall.

New Business

Judy Ham announced that ACCO is refinancing current bonds, and there may be some funding to help VCS.

New board members, Sonja Herrera and Lisa Sagaser were thanked by members of the board for their knowledge, which was reflected in their participation in meetings and their understanding and positive contributions to board business.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

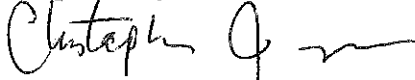
Next Meeting

Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 4:30 PM in the East Campus Large Conference Room.

Adjournment

All business being concluded, a motion was made by Lisa Sagaser, seconded by Chris Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chris Jensen, Secretary