



Namaste Charter School Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 6:00 PM

3737 S. Paulina
Chicago, IL 60609

Present Board Members: Maricela Herrera, Michel Mahaffey, Luis Narvaez, Jim O'Toole, Jim Scott, Allison Slade

Absent Board Members: Martins Adeoye

Guests: Fabian Garcia, Meredith Kirshenbaum, Kathryn Nelson, Tracy Smith-Jackson, Rocio Tovar

Agenda

I) Opening Items

Jim O'Toole

- A) Call Meeting to Order
- B) Approve Minutes
 - Approval of minutes from 11/15/22 Meeting

Mr. O'Toole called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the November 15, 2022 meeting minutes, Dr. Slade seconded the motion.

All in favor: 6; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0

II) Public Comment/Welcome Guests

Michel Mahaffey

Ms. Mahaffey welcomed guests.

There were no public comments.

III) State of School (60 minutes)

Rocio Tovar

A) School Update

Ms. Tovar began the state of the school updating the board on several celebrations including receipt of an Ingenuity Grant, increased parent participation in Parents Ignite, planning work for the American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge, and increased Alumni volunteer hours. Ms. Tovar then reviewed current enrollment. As of 01/13/23 there are 404 students enrolled. That is another net decrease of 12 students from mid-November. In line with recent history, the majority of students leaving Namaste are going to Chicago Public Schools and Chicago Non-Public Schools (51%). The majority of the remainder are transferring out of the district (42%). The lottery is scheduled for March 3rd this year. Mr. Scott asked for a specific plan and set of objectives for enrollment for next year. Ms. Smith-Jackson commented that there is a lack of daycare/nurse schools in the neighborhood that also has a negative impact on Namaste enrollment.

Ms. Tovar then discussed the positive survey categories and areas for improvement in the results of the Upbeat survey. She also reviewed action plans in place to increase results in survey categories not meeting goals. Ms. Tovar then reviewed current marketing plan and events and initiatives for student recruitment. She then gave



an overview of current staffing and hiring needs. Ms. Tovar stated that recruiting continues to be significant challenge. There are currently 3 open positions and there have been 4 recent hires.

Ms. Smith-Jackson then presented an operations update. She is currently revisiting the HVAC maintenance contract and researching options for updating the phone and PA system. Additionally, Namaste participated in an energy assessment with ComEd to potentially receive a grant to improve lighting and energy efficiency.

Finance (20 minutes)

Jim Scott

B) Financial Reports

Mr. Scott announced that financial results are not available for this reporting period.

IV) Development (10 minutes)

Allison Slade

A) Development Update

Dr. Slade announced that Namaste has reached 60% of its fundraising goal to date. The remainder of the development target is expected to come from the upcoming Casino Night event. Ms. Nelson then reviewed sponsorship options for Casino Night. Casino Night is June 1 2023 at a location in Pilsen.

V) Closed Meeting Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)

- A) Vote to go in to closed session
- B) Vote to exit closed session Ad

Michel Mahaffey

Ms. Mahaffey moved to go in to closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) at 6:50p. Ms. Herrera seconded the motion.

All in favor: 6; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0

Mr. O'Toole made a motion to exit closed session at 8:33pm. Dr. Slade seconded the motion.

All in favor: 6; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0

VI) Vote on Matters Discussed in Closed Session (if necessary)

Michel Mahaffey

There were not matters discussed in closed session necessitating a vote.

VII) Closing Items

Jim O'Toole

A) Adjourn Meetingc

Mr. O'Toole made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35p. Mr. Scott seonded the motion.

All in favor: 6; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0