



## Namaste Charter School Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 6:00 PM

3737 S. Paulina  
Chicago, IL 60609

**Present Board Members:** Maricela Herrera, Jim O'Toole, Jim Scott, Allison Slade, Luis Narvaez, Martins Adeoye  
(6:24pm-8:14pm)

**Present Via Phone:** Michel Mahaffey

**Absent Board Members:** none

**Guests:** Fabian Garcia, Meredith Kirshenbaum, Kathryn Nelson, Tracy Smith-Jackson, Rocio Tovar, Rosie Aleman, Arce, Kimberley Matsik, Tori Bohannon, Anna Ryan, Zachary Mana, Josefina Caliva, Diana Chacon, Gerardo Casales, Makenzie Nelson, Natalie Galves, Mia Delgado, Agustine, Emune, Judith Gonzalez, Marissa Moreno, Jessica Valdez, Taylor Sandroff, Stephanie Lopez, Beatrice Cook. Linda Perales, Emily Osteer, Yesenia DeLuna, Antonia Diaz, Alejandro DeLuna, Ruby Aranda, Euinice Valdivia.

### Agenda

- I) **Opening Items** Jim O'Toole
- A) Call Meeting to Order
  - B) Approve Minutes  
Approval of minutes from 1/17/23

Mr. O'Toole called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the January 17, 2023 meeting minutes, Dr. Slade seconded the motion.

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

- II) **Public Comment/Welcome Guests** Jim O'Toole

Mr. O'Toole welcomed guests. There were 8 people who made public comments.

- III) **State of School (60 minutes)** Rocio Tovar
- A) School Update

Ms. Tovar discussed some success in the area of student success, alumni success, and additional programming. Recruitment continues to be an issue. Our enrolled student numbers are down to 399. Mr. Scott asked what is the solution to this challenge? Rocio discussed some ideas that are both planned and being discussed. Multiage classes as a possibility.



Ms. Tovar reviewed culture assessment updates and Upbeat survey results. Twenty one out of twenty three categories in the survey showed increased. There is also 100% teacher/principal trust. Extra prep has also been allocated to teachers to help in terms of work/life balance.

Ms. Tovar then discussed the academic update. The board requested that Ms. Tovar send the CPS letter of Accountability to the them for review.

Ms. Tovar then provided a staffing and hiring update. There are currently no open positions. Challenges continue to be staffing middle school and special education positions.

Positive evaluations from Identity Capital and Accelerate Institute for school leadership and the leadership team were reviewed by Ms. Tovar.

Ms. Smith-Jackson then presented an operations update. A new accountant (Nadia) has joined and to replace Danny.

**Finance** (20 minutes)

Jim Scott

B) Financial Reports

Mr. Scott reviewed the financial impact of the potential contract. We currentl have significantly fewer students that our cap allows and far fewer than included in this year's budget. Mr. Scott emphasized that because of this reduced headcount we are in grave danger of not meeting CPS financial metrics with the current labor proposal under review. The terms of this contract will also consume all of the cash available on our balance sheet. Mr. Scott also reminded the board of the upcoming balloon payment requirements to the Archdiocese for building rent. Mr. Scott summarized that a amore reasonable financial agreement with CTU is necessary for Namaste to maintain required financial health.

IV) **Development** (10 minutes)

Allison Slade

A) Development Update

Dr. Slade reported that Casino Night on June 1<sup>st</sup>. She asked for the board to help in increasing sponsorships and raffle items and encouraged everyone to plan to attend.

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

A) Vote to go in to closed session

Jim O'Toole

B) Vote to exit closed session

Mr. O'Toole moved to go in to closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) at 7:57pm. Ms. Herrera seconded the motion.

All in favor: 7; 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)

Jim O'Toole

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



**VII) Closing Items**

Jim O'Toole

A) Adjourn Meeting

Jim O'Toole made a motion at adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm. Jim Scott seconded.

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