



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, May 3rd, 2024
4:00 PM
Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

John Hrisney	X
Charles Hempfling	Absent
Michelle Cronin	X
Manuj Lal	Absent
Stephen Moy	X (joined at 4:45)
Jyoti Nigam	Absent
Emiko Ohenhen	X
Mark Hansen	X

Guests Present

Michael Stewart: Principal, Passages
Rebecca Creighton: Co-CEO
Chris Shue: Co-CEO
Eric Lindstrom: Chief Operating Officer
Ali Tarokh: Director, Policy and Advocacy
Anna Falcon: Director, People and Culture
Gianna Sheppard-Howell: Director, Early Childhood
Evan Brandes: Administrative and Development Partner

1. Call to Order (M. Cronin)

Discussion: M. Cronin called the meeting to order at 4:20PM. M. Cronin invited Passages Board Representative, Emiko Ohenhen, to introduce himself.

2. Public Comment:

Discussion: N/A

3. Education Council Report (M. Hansen / M. Stewart)

Discussion: M. Hansen spoke about the vision that the Education Council is writing for the school. M. Hansen will bring that vision to the board next month. M. Stewart commented that the vision takes a particular focus on English language learners.



M. Hensen spoke about competency-based curriculum as opposed to a whole class instruction, how it could benefit Passages diverse student body, and how it would require some additional professional development for staff. R. Creighton spoke to how competency-based curriculum can bridge the gap during the transition from pre-K to elementary school. J. Hrisney brought up his concerns about disruptions in the curriculum.

4. Principals Report (M. Stewart)

Discussion: M. Stewart shared his agenda. M. Stewart discussed charter compliance including Special Education compliance, IEP metrics (10% of Passages students have IEPs), ELL percentages (67% of Passages students are English Language Learners vs. 27% for CPS on average), and other school data points. M. Hansen thanked M. Stewart for his work in meeting SPED compliance because M. Stewart is acting as special education director in addition to his work as principal.

Currently, 380 students are enrolled at Passages. Attendance is down 2% year over year, and currently stands at 87%. M. Stewart suggested that this is because many of Passages newest students are from the temporary shelters and have a harder time attending school because they move more frequently. For example, some migrants have been relocated from the Broadway Armory to the far south side and they have continued to enroll at Passages instead of school on the south side. Between 2019 and 2023, chronic absenteeism rose in CPS from 24% to 40%, so this is a district wide issue.

Last year, 17% of graduating 8th graders were accepted into an IB or selective enrollment high school; this year, that number has risen to 28%. These numbers don't include students who are attending neighborhood schools with IB programs within their school.

Last year, 50% of teachers left their positions at the end of the academic year. This year, that number is 10%.

5. Early Childhood Education Report (G. Sheppard-Howell)

Discussion: G. Sheppard-Howell provided data on the ECE program. Enrollment is for early head start and head start are both at 100%. ECE staff are working with hospitals to get referrals to ECE's home based programs. ECE and K-8 are receiving walk-in enrollments daily. Last week the head start staff hosted a transition to kindergarten event where pre-K students met the kindergarten teachers.

6. Consent Agenda

Discussion: Motion to approve consent agenda made by M. Hansen and seconded by J. Hrisney

Motion was: Approved- M.Cronin, M.Hansen, J.Hrisney, S.Moy, E. Ohenhen



7. On the Horizon

- Discussion:**
- A. Passport to Passages on May 22nd from 1 - 4PM
 - B. Graduation on May 31st at 1PM
 - C. American Airlines Field Trip on May 3rd

7. Adjourn

- Discussion:** Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:30 made by J. Hrisney seconded by M. Hansen

Motion was: Approved- J.Hrisney, M. Hansen, M.Cronon, S. Moy, E. Ohenhen