



**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Tuesday November 12, 2024  
5:00 P.M.**

**2838 West Peterson**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

John Hrisney	X
Charles Hempfling	X
Michelle Cronin	X
Manuj Lal	X
Stephen Moy	Absent
Jyoti Nigam	X
Mark Hansen	X
Paula Cripps-Vallejo	X
Marcia Harris	X

**Guests Present**

Rebecca Creighton: Co-CEO  
Chris Shue: Co-CEO  
Eric Lindstrom: COO  
Michael Stewart: Principal, Passages  
Anna Falcon: Director of Human Resources  
J. Johnson: ECE Site Manager

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**1. Call to Order (M. Cronin)**

**Discussion:** M. Hansen called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm

**2. Public Comment**

**Discussion:** N/A

**3. Ed Council Report (M. Hansen/M. Stewart)**

**Discussion:** M. Stewart shared that the Ed Council's primary focus this year will be on instruction, with a particular emphasis on supporting Multi-Language Learners. M. Stewart and M. Hansen are encouraging the committee to leverage data and existing research to guide the adoption of best practices. Integrating competency-based curriculum with effective instructional strategies is expected to yield the most significant benefits for students. M. Stewart shared that based on the most recent staff survey, 80% of teachers feel there is alignment in curriculum, which is a win.



M. Hansen noted that Principal Stewart and his team are clearly aligned with the board's three strategic priorities. He emphasized that by staying the course, meaningful improvements are likely to follow.

M. Stewart shared that he has partnered with Clinton Elementary to observe their use of the Modern Classroom approach, helping to evaluate whether it is the right system for launching a competency-based pilot in the 2025-26 school year. M. Hansen noted that some staff have already started training and implementing the approach in their classrooms, which is a promising.

#### 4. Principals Report (M. Stewart)

**Discussion:** M. Stewart outlined the timeline for the Charter Renewal process. Renewal site visits and community meetings will take place between September and November, followed by an opportunity for public comment during the winter (5 families lined up). Public comment submissions are now selected through a lottery system. The final vote on the charter renewal terms is expected in February, as the new CPS Board will become fully active in January.

M. Stewart announced that the SPED site visit is scheduled for December 3rd. Currently, 39 students, representing approximately 10% of the student body, have IEPs. Most IEPs are typically finalized between December and February

M. Stewart reported that the EL site visit took place on October 28th. Preliminary report identified strengths included the establishment of a BAC Committee, 100% completion of screeners, the hiring of additional bilingual and ESL staff, 93% completion of ACCESS assessments, and the presence of at least one bilingual teacher in every grade level from K-8. Areas for improvement include the ML/bilingual classroom environment, ML progress reporting, record maintenance and ASPEN reporting, submission processes for Title III Federal and State Bilingual Grants, and procedures for ML/DL students.

M. Stewart reported current enrollment is 387 with 72% a part of our EL/ML population. M. Stewart reported that year to date attendance percentage is 89%.

M. Stewart reported that we were rated commendable by ISBE again this year and our academic growth was 68% in ELA (slightly down from last year, likely due to the increase in newcomer/EL population) and 62% in Math.

M. Stewart shared that CPS has a new Academic Accountability Policy. They will be looking at 4 main components which include, evidence of student learning and wellbeing, daily learning experiences, adult capacity and continuous learning and an inclusive and collaborative school and community. Policy won't go into effect for charter schools until October 2025 with the first report coming out October 2026.

R. Creighton provided an overview of the evolving educational landscape in Chicago. The new school board is composed of 50% members appointed by Mayor Johnson and 50% elected, with terms lasting two years. The board remains divided on its stance toward charter schools, and union negotiations are still ongoing. We will reach out to Ebony Deberry who is the board member for district 2, which is Passages district.

#### 5. Passages Budget (C. Shue)

**Discussion:** C. Shue shared that the priority heading into FY25 was to balance the Passages budget. C. Shue also shared that there is some concern that the timing of Q3 and Q4 payments may be delayed due to what's happening at CPS, which could have a substantial impact on cash flow for us.

C. Shue shared that we are finalizing our audit and year to date financials.

#### 6. ECE Report (J. Johnson/R. Creighton)

**Discussion:** J. Johnson reported the following:

- Our attendance to date is 86.6%
- We are 99% enrolled.
- Fully staffed on the teacher side
- In the process of licensing renewal up in December
- Based on Start Early site visit our monitoring compliance has improved
- Our diverse learner percentage should be at 10% by the end of the year, which is a funder requirement.

#### 7. Passages Special Committee (R. Creighton/ C. Shue)

**Discussion:** C. Shue shared that the special committee has met twice and have a framework for 3 sustainability plans and are on track to make a recommendation to the board by the end of the calendar year. The committee includes M. Hansen, J. Hrisney, M. Stewart, M. Moeller of Focus Strategic Partners, C. Shue and R. Creighton.

#### 8. Consent Agenda

**Discussion:** Motion to move approve consent agenda made by M. Hansen and seconded by M. Harris

Motion was: Approved- unanimously by M. Cronin, J. Hrisney, C. Hempfling, P. Cripps-Vallejo, M. Lal, J. Nigam,

- a. Approval of September 2024 Meeting Minutes

#### 8. On the Horizon

**Discussion:** M. Stewart shared the following dates

- Student Council Canned Food Drive: November 4<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>
- M.S. Soccer Game: November 21<sup>st</sup> - 1:30-2:30
- Passages Winter Show: December 19<sup>th</sup>
- All Staff Meeting: December 20<sup>th</sup>



## 9 . Adjourn

**Discussion:** Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:12 made by M. Hansen and seconded by C. Hempfling

Motion was: Approved- unanimous M. Cronin, M. Harris, P. Cripps-Vallejo, M.Lal, J.Nigam, J. Hrisney