
Empowering Students Through Entrepreneurship

Regular Monthly Board Meeting: SEPTEMBER 2021

Date: Wednesday September 1st, 2021

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Virtual

Attendees: Chair: Carl Garcia, Members: Kelly Callahan, Daniel Gutierrez, Shayne Huffman, Melody Brown, Sommer Smith, Natalie Sommer, Glenna Voight

Staff: Jaqi Baldwin, Anna Aguilera, Betty Seeley, Natalie Tavitias,

CALL TO ORDER at 4:03

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION:

Sommer Smith made the motion to approve the September board meeting agenda and Natalie Sommer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Input: School Programming Update

Jared McHugh Artivism- students using art to speak out on community issues. How they can our community using art. They will have a festival at the end of the semester. Engaging with downtown artists and activist

Derrick Adkins- Mystery clue project-engaging students in a deep dive into the field of crime scene investigation. Forensic sciences and how students can apply these skills into a career. Students are thoroughly engaged in this class.

Ronnie Reynolds- revitalizing downtown- promoting downtown as a destination and economic development- Curious Toast- Students are engaged with pitching ideas- using social media in a meaningful way.

Yvonne Valenzuela- We have 61 special ed students or students on an IEP. 34 of the students are new to the school. It is exciting to service them and give them the support that they need. Siembra's Special Ed program serves about 25% of the student population, which is double the statewide average. Ms. Valenzuela explained that there are about 39 students enrolled in the online credit recovery program. This is an exciting program to help students catch up on the gaps they may have in their credit acquisition.

Dominique Gallegos- Direct practice Social Work practitioner- Student Support – success coach, attendance, special ed support, identifying students strengths, food box, social emotional groups

Ms. Martinez and Adam Larson- Introduced themselves and first year teachers at Siembra. The board members extended their gratitude to all the staff and teacher's that help to give students the support they need to succeed.

Items for Board Discussion

Due to the recent tragedy at Washington Middle School wanted to do an emotional check in and update to the board on procedures that have been put in place to protect students. Jaqi expressed that the young people and the young people in particular at the school have been experiencing threats to their safety for a long time. Especially when you think about race and systems of oppression. It is hard to wrap our heads around the violence in the community. The staff put out some messaging to the families and we are doing one on one check ins with staff. Some participants at the meeting opened up about how the shooting effected them and their families. One person mentioned that their son attends Washington MS and it was pretty traumatic for them even being near the situation. This why it is important to build trusting relationships with the students and build that trust up. There is a shelter in place procedure and the Siembra had just conducted an active shooter training and helped to reinforce that building that trust building aspect. Good communication with the students and the parents is so helpful as well. These preventive measures can prevent a larger tragedy from occurring.

Returning to School in the COVID era the board agreed that the communication during this time has been great and very reassuring. It's not an easy transition to return back to the classroom, but the with the right supports in place it creates a successful atmosphere.

Entrepreneurship Committee Report Out

Jaqi reported that there has not been any meeting during the Summer, but the next meeting will resume on September 7th.

Other highlights include:

- 45 Seniors in Business Capstone this year
- SBA Community Navigators Grant has been submitted
- The great news is that the Color Theory work has been awarded through the Kellogg Grant for an amount of \$995,000 over the next two years, with \$33,000 year one and year two going specifically for Siembra to support the Color Theory work

Finance Committee Report Out (*Shayne Huffman, Board Treasurer & Jaqi Baldwin, ED*):

Shayne reported that the committee reviewed the financials at the meeting on August 24th. Reviewing and approving the July financial report, bank statement, reconciliation and going over the finance and operations checklist (this is a process that all Charter schools have to do on a monthly and quarterly basis).

Kelley added some additional training by explaining the authorizer requires this level of detail (Checklist) for all the financials. This is good practice for keeping track of where we are in the performance framework. APS requires this to address the audit findings and try to mitigate them before they occur.

Betty did add that she submitted the per pupil expenditure to APS. It may be on the agenda for approval for the next meeting.

Executive Director Report Out *Jaqi Baldwin, SLHS ED*

Jaqi stated that she sends out running notes to the foundation team to update them on week by week progress. As part of the facilities Jaqi reminded the board members that the Foundation board of 501 C was created with the specific purpose to support the school in the building projects. Jaqi mentioned the updates on the facilities and the status for each location:

- 606 Central: In closing
- 610 Central: offer submitted

- 300 Central: lease office space thru Dec 2022
 - 524 Central: current lease space for school thru June 2022
- Jaqi provided an Current student count as well in here update there are currently 238 students; with the enrollment goal of 260 for October 2022

Executive Committee Report Out

Jaqi reported that during the monthly Executive committee meeting, the committee which consists of Carl, Glenna, Kelly and Jaqi, set the agenda for every board meeting, getting input and fine tuning the draft agenda.

Reminders and Input for October Retreat

- Revise ED Evaluation Policy
- Review & Revise Board Bylaws (Annually)
- Review performance framework

Consent Agenda Items

1. Regular August Board Meeting: Wednesday August 4th, 2021 notes
2. Special August Board Meeting: Monday August 24th, 2021 notes
3. July 2021 Financial Report

Motion:

Natalie Sommer made the motion to approve consent agenda items 1 – 3. Glenna Voight seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Future Agendas

- Finance Checklist Training (2021 - 2022)

Upcoming Board Meetings

- Annual School Board Retreat: Monday October 4th, 2021 from 12 noon to 4 pm
 - Location TBD pending COVID cases and learning program
 - Regular monthly board meeting takes place during the retreat
- Executive Committee Meeting: Monday September 27th, 2021 @noon
- Entrepreneurial Committee Meeting: Tuesday September 7th, 2021 @9 am
- Finance Committee Meeting: Tuesday September 28th, 2021 from noon to 1 pm

Adjournment

Motion:

Shayne Huffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Glenna Voigh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.