



“The World Is Our Family”
A North Carolina Public Charter School

CAROLINA
International School

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024

Meeting Purpose: Regular Scheduled Meeting

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: (Meeting via Zoom)

Prepared by: Bob Gorham (Secretary for Board)

Board Members in Attendance: Bob Gorham, Kevin Fauth, (no quorum present)

Board Members Not in Attendance: Bill Jackson, Dr. Camela Ford

Others: Dr. Paul Bryant, (Head of Schools), Other attendees present via Zoom and in-person (approximately 10 people in attendance on call)

Welcome and Call to Order – Bob Gorham (in absence of Chairman Dr. Camela Ford)

CIS Mission and Values – Dr. Paul Bryant

Grade Level Service Project Report – Dr. Micah Griffith

- Ghana Project and Leadership Development Activities.

Secretary Report - Bob Gorham

Minutes of February BOD meeting submitted to Board prior to meeting for review. No changes noted by members. However, since quorum was not present at meeting, the minutes will be submitted for approval at April BOD meeting

Facilities Committee Report – Bob Gorham (Chair)

Committee met on March 20th at 1:30 pm in CIS office meeting room. Attendees Bob Gorham, Dr. Bryant, John White.

- Speed Bumps to be placed near soccer field
- Water Fountain on 1st floor repaired in-house
- Fire Extinguishers had annual inspection and are up to date.
- Fire Marshall had walkthrough and inspection went well.

- Old Car port will be converted for greenhouse project and for environmental program. To have solar power.
- Recent roof leaks in HS classrooms were repaired.
- Dry Pond inspection coming up.
- Dumpster Cage Door replaced and project completed.
- Blinds project near completion. Way under original bid.
- Sports fields are holding up with reseeding underway.
- Fence will need to be placed around playground.
- Project and discussions with Concord Parks and Rec for tie in for athletics still being planned.
- Summer projects to be reviewed.
- Reviewed gym floor with Mr. White. Seems to be holding up well.

Finance Committee Report - Kevin Fauth (Chair)

- Review of current budget with projections
 - \$8k in black (\$300k deficit originally projected)
 - \$105k
- Revenue reduced by \$47k due to bond cash can't be used in revenue
- Bus increase of \$70k (\$179k-\$230k next year) 150 kids use it
- Add potential of \$50k for bus grant - \$24k actually provided
- \$8.5M revenue
- Update on projects
 - Building extension:
 - CSP and Financial Advisor to come in April for building expansion presentation
 - CSP - \$9k for consulting -- 1% if construction (~\$60k - \$9k 'deposit')
 - Financial Advisor – no prepayment –
 - Paul Clancy (RBC) – Bond refinancing
 - Unexpected Repair costs – no unexpected costs – spend items deferred to summer
- Update on fundraising strategy and efforts
 - 20th Anniversary Fundraising
 - Meetings started around planning
 - Gala moved from 4/20/23 to tentative 9/14/23
 - Still waiting on a location and related cost
 - Consultant (\$35k)
- Fundraising Fund -from fundraising fund \$144k, down to \$111k
 - Consultant
 - Funds for enrollment
- PTSO - Book Fair
- Food - RFPs for new vendor for the new school year
- Grants
 - Update on grants (in progress, investigating, etc)
 - GO Grant (State of NC)
 - Might need more info (Mrs Steel)
 - Grants in process

- CCLC (community learning center)
 - Grants completed/funding/spend status
 - Bus - \$24k
 - Esser - \$42k for summer operational costs, \$17k for summer reading
- Work/Review of 2024/2025 budget

Academic Standards Committee Report – Dr. Camela Ford (Presented by Dr. Bryant)
(Part of HOS report)

Head of School Report –Dr. Paul Bryant (*Report submitted to BOD- reference for details*)

Enrollment – Current enrollment is 760 students. There are 575 with intent to return. Projected Enrollment for 2024-25 is 790. Current applications for 2024-25 – 364 students.

Health & Wellness

Earlier this year, the counselors spoke with middle and high school students regarding self-harm and suicide prevention. Dr. Stoilovic will be starting SEL lunch groups during the different lunch blocks (ES, MS & HS) to address current and relevant issues our students are facing. The first theme will be “Self-love”. Dr. Stoilovic’s goal is to empower students to see themselves as worthy no matter their grades, looks, extra-curricular activities but rather as unique and authentic human beings worthy loving themselves.

She will also push into 4th and 5th grade classrooms to talk about self-love and advertise the lunch group. After spring break a new SEL theme will be chosen for the lunch group

School Nurse Reported

- Student & staff safety remains a priority. There have been no major injuries or incidents on campus (broken bones, allergic reactions, cardiac events, etc).
- Smile NC dental clinic will return to CIS on May 10. This will be their third visit with us, and we have always had a great response from students and parents. They perform dental cleanings, x-rays and fillings at their visits.
- Cardiac Emergency Response Team performed a successful cardiac event drill.
- The Heart Safe School certification through Project ADAM has been renewed for another year.
- Mr. Grant and his NHS students hosted two blood drives this school year, collecting 37 units of blood total.

Facilities /Maintenance Report – Discussed during Facilities Committee as previously reported.

Finance and Personnel (referenced during Finance Committee Report)

- Current budget is \$8,534,149.52. A surplus of \$8,557.00 is projected, but spending is being adjusted based on final projected ADM.
- Two Open EC positions
- No new hires since previous BOD Meeting

Athletic Updates

Academic Component

MS Girls Basketball team ***average GPA consisted of 3.1*** and our MS Boys Basketball team average ***GPA: 3.0!*** A

Our HS student-athletes average ***GPA consisted of 3.33*** with several of our players maintaining well within the schoolrooms, etc.

Middle School Basketball: MS Girls Team won the regular season with a 11-1 record (first time in CIS basketball history) Captured second place for the tournament finishing a school record of 13-2. MS Boys completed the season with a run playing against the “top” seeded Sugar Creek concluding the season playing very well.

HS Basketball:

JV Boys team are Metro 8 JV Boys Basketball Champions. This is the first time in school history that the JV Basketball Program won the conference. JV Boys Our JV Boys was led by Coach Darius Copeland (his first year) coaching at Carolina International School

Varsity Girls: Our Lady Comets Basketball team placed third within the Metro 8 conference and won five (5) games throughout the season. The Lady Comets was led by Coach Bishop and Coach B. Davis. The ladies had a good season, scoring fifty-six (56) points within a game. Awesome job Lady Comets, they look to build on the work they started and add more win on next basketball season.

Varsity Boys Basketball: Our VB Basketball team “super” exceeded under the direction of first year Coach Chris Ewell. Coach the Boys won the Metro 8 Tournament in his first year, captured nineteen wins within his first year, placed three student-athletes on the All-Conference team. Under Coach Ewell leadership, the team placed second within the regular season beating Piedmont Charter twice (no other team within the conference beat Piedmont) except CIS. CIS played the NCHSAA Basketball Playoffs for the third straight year: 2023-2024 CIS played within the first/second round of the NCHSAA Playoffs to capture an awesome basketball season under the leadership of first year Head Coach Chris Ewell.

Spring Sports:

MS Track & Field: will be under the leadership of Coach Smith: Their first track meet within take place within a couple. They have been training and working hard during practice sessions. They first track meet will be in April.

MS Softball: Softball is back, and the Lady Comets are loving the atmosphere and practice setting. We have a total of fifteen to nineteen ladies playing MS Softball this year and we’re excited to see them play on the diamonds this year. They will play a total of eight to ten games. They will lead by Head Coach Megan Kennedy and Coach Annie Sessoms.

MS Flag Football: Are you ready for some football? Catch the Comets in action on 4/18/24 here on campus as they play their first flag football game of the 2024 season. They will attempt to build on last year’s Championship season, they won the entire league. They will be led by Head Coach B. Davis. Come cheer on the Comets as they defend their title.

HS Baseball: Our HS Baseball team is off and running into a new and exciting season. They will be led by a couple of seniors: James Hatch, Christian Rivera, Spencer Best, etc. and several young players. They will be under the leadership of first year Coach Houston who is very excited to start a new foundation within our baseball program. Come out and support our baseball team.

HS Track & Field: Off and sprinting into a new season under the leadership of Coach Bishop. The HS Track & Field team look to build on their success from last year's team who made a lot of noise within the conference. They will run their first meet next week on (3/18/24 in Huntersville, NC.

20th Anniversary Fund Raising Campaign Update – Trying to create a culture of Giving and Philanthropy. Events planned include CIS International Gala being planned, Homecoming Sports Classic venue, silent auction. Hoping to be successful to raise \$200,000. The school is using Bontera (Fundraising Platform) to assist in annual campaign.

Academic Updates and Discussion

- BTSP audit has been completed and will be submitted today by Ms. Donaldson. We appreciate all of her hard work on this.
- 2nd round observations are in process along with peer observations. With this comes our mid-year PDP review where we discuss our schoolwide goal as well as personal, professional goals and room for improvement. Our school goal was as follows: By the end of the school year, we will collectively increase our composite proficiency from 50% to 60% using differentiation and culturally relevant instruction.

PLC

Mentors

PD provided to all staff

Lesson plan support

Dr. Woody's Master Classes

- Staff have been asked to complete two master classes throughout this year as well. These include the following courses:

Instructional Revolution: This course includes 4 modules. 1) Relationship-building to enhance instruction, 2) Engaging and motivating instruction for urban and culturally diverse classrooms, 3) Creativity for fun instruction, 4) Enhanced emotional intelligence in urban schools.

The Educator Wellness Revolution: This course includes 2 modules. 1) Mental wellness for educators, 2) Mindfulness and yoga for educators.

- Similarly to high school, we are working to form relationships with other middle schools for our teachers to partner, collaborate, and learn from one another.
- We have seen a larger percentage of students come into the building this year below national norms (beginning of the year data) from kindergarten up. At this time, our APs can speak to what individual grade levels are doing to address this data. Grade levels and departments across campus were asked to complete a deep data dive and present their data to the entire school. Trends were discussed and will drive instructional planning and curriculum purchases next school year.
- New partnerships with CPCC established. CPCC visit on 3/21.
- ACT was held this week for all 11th graders
- NC Check-ins for Math 1, Math 3, and Biology will be this upcoming week on March 19th.
- Preparing for graduation and prom as well as K, 5, and 8 moving up ceremonies.
- Behavioral incentives have been increased to support middle school as Spring Break approaches. These include admin check-ins, weekly open gym, and Carowinds.
- MANY events have taken place or will be taking place in the near future: K-12 Art Show, 3 Little Pigs, Matilda, band performance, staff-student basketball game.

General Updates

Attended the state required School Risk Management Training and actively working on inputting site-based school data to develop a comprehensive schematic diagram and plans into the new platform that houses every school's crisis management plan throughout the state.

Teacher working condition survey begins March 1st. This state-wide TWC survey is conducted every two years for the past twenty years. The survey underwent a major set of changes this year.

Partnering with consulting firm (**EduClaim LP**) to assist with developing, managing, and balancing Medicaid billing reimbursement program for all Exceptional Children's programs and any general education programs that are deemed Medicaid eligible. This will help offset the cost of these programs on our general fund accounts. The consultant firms retain 15% of all funds billed through this program.

Replaced transportation company with R and D Bus Transportation – Service begins 2/20/24

The Environmental and International Coordinator, Mrs. Steel, is getting materials for our greenhouse. She is also working on our International and Environmental Standards, conducting curriculum audits and writing action plans for 24-25.

We are also going to be linked with our partner school in Ghana soon.

The Lotto Seeds Grant the school received as a result of Mrs. Steel's efforts.... is presented by - - The Seeds for Education Grant Program honoring Lorrie Otto, who inspired school garden projects in the 1970s in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. For more than 20 years, Wild Ones has awarded SFE grants to youth-serving organizations for acquiring native plants and seeds for outdoor learning areas that engage youth (preschool to high school) directly in planning, planting, and caring for native plant gardens throughout the United States.

Dates to Remember:

End of Third Quarter – March 20th

Spring Break Begins – March 29th – April 5th

April Board Meeting – April 18th

Principal's Reports – Dr. Micah Griffith

- Academic Update (*See inclusion in HOS Report*)
- Instructional Revolution (Mental Wellness, Mindfulness)
- CPCC partnership is not happening.
- Education licensing is being promoted.
- Preparing for upcoming graduation.

Teachers Rep Report (School Happenings) – Ms. Lena Hicks (HS ELA Teacher)

- CIS Varsity Boys Basketball team are Metro 8 Champs. Congratulations.
- Rythmic Revivial- Feb 29th.
- Spring Band Concert – May 8th
- National Honor Society – Work on campus cleanup.
- PTSO Book Fair – Largest since 2016
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PTSO Report – No Report

Old Business – None

New Business – No new business discussed due to absence of quorum.

Open Comments - 3 minutes per person. No comments.

Closed Session – No items for discussion

Open Session

Motion to adjourn by Kevin Fauth, 2nd by Bob Gorham - No objections.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned @ 7:11 pm