Breakthrough Board Minutes

8/26/2021

Attendance:

| X | Keith Whitescarver, Chair |
| --- | --- |
| X | Katie Brown, Secretary |
|  | Sara Suchman |
| X | Chris Lohse |
| X | David Bagnoli |
| X | Rachel Kimboko |
| X | Michael Bing, Treasurer |
| X | Vivek Swaminathan |
| X | Kendra Harpster, SHA President |
| X | Emily Hedin |
| X | Hannah Richardson |
| X | Kat Park |
| X | Michael Watts, EdOps |
| X | Waseem Abbas, EdOps |
| X | Paul Fraioli, Parent |

1. 5:05pm: Call to order & Welcome

1. Approval of the Minutes from June 10, 2021

Motion: Chris moves to approve the minutes.

Second: Dave

| A | Chris Lohse | A | Michael Bing |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | David Bagnoli | A | Rachel Kimboko |
| A | Katie Brown |  | Sara Suchman |
| A | Keith Whitescarver | A | Vivek Swaminathan |
| A | Kendra Harpster |  |  |

A=aye; N=nay

1. Executive Director’s Report
   1. 322 children enrolled, 320 DC residents, 2 non-residents
   2. Lengthy wait lists for primary, small group for elementary
   3. Successfully moved into new home @ Takoma
   4. Theme for the year: reverence
   5. Summer institute professional development:
      1. Literacy
      2. Social-emotional support for children
      3. Nautilus approach
   6. All classrooms using a curriculum map to be prepared in case shift to virtual learning due to quarantine or school closures
   7. Ashley Anderson stepping into Allison Jones’ role
   8. Increasing number of students with special needs requiring 20+ specialized instructional hours/week
   9. Finances
      1. Key financial performance indicators are strong
      2. Enrollment audit will take place in October; FY 22 budget hinges on enrolling 315 students
      3. ​​OSSE has announced a $10M fund for charter facilities grants. Breakthrough is anticipated to receive approximately $84,000--will use for nurse’s office and playground

1. Public Comment
   1. SHA update from Kendra: 4 members of executive committee for SHA
   2. Paul Fraioli: Moved to DC mid-pandemic, the transition back to in-person learning at Breakthrough has been managed very well, comparative to experiences they’re hearing from parents at other schools
   3. Vivek: question from a parent about what happens after 5th grade?
   4. Emily: DC Council needs to write legislation to create the feeder pattern from Breakthrough to the Sojourner Truth School. Will ask Justin Lessek, ED of Sojourner Truth School, to write something for the Breakthrough newsletter.

1. New Business
   1. Playground plan
      1. Natural playscape
      2. Outdoor classroom space
      3. Place for youngest children--older children can still walk to playground, and benefit from the exercise, though all ages might utilize the outdoor classroom space, fenced in and all natural materials will be used, bottom level will be porous rubber material for rainwater to drain, engineered woodfill mulch will be used to level out space, David suggested an exposed aggregate pathway, and asked about lighting - no light is less pressure on the neighborhood
      4. What is projected wear and tear if it’s open to the public? Is there a liability factor? Emily investigating these questions
      5. How are we funding this? Cost is $270,000
         1. $120,000 already secured
         2. $150,000 to fundraise
            1. 3-phase plan for buildout and fundraising
            2. Board, school vendors, ice cream social, groundbreaking, families, Takoma businesses, foundations and grants
      6. Playground will be dedicated to the late Jackie Cossentino, one of Breakthrough’s founders
   2. Recruiting and onboarding new board members
      1. We have at least 3 positions to fill; 3 members are due to roll off
      2. What skills do we need? Fundraising, leadership coaching
      3. We need to have at least 5 DC residents
      4. Emily will work on language for newsletter and website, and each board member will come to next meeting with 2 or more recommendations
   3. Approval of new contracts over $25,000
      1. Casa Lala, aftercare

Motion: Rachel moves to approve

Second: Chris

| A | Chris Lohse | A | Michael Bing |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | David Bagnoli | A | Rachel Kimboko |
| A | Katie Brown |  | Sara Suchman |
| A | Keith Whitescarver | A | Vivek Swaminathan |
| A | Kendra Harpster |  |  |

* + 1. Rome Charters, busing services

Motion: Rachel moves to approve

Second: Chris

| A | Chris Lohse | A | Michael Bing |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | David Bagnoli | A | Rachel Kimboko |
| A | Katie Brown |  | Sara Suchman |
| A | Whitescarver | A | Vivek Swaminathan |
| A | Kendra Harpster |  |  |

1. Covid protocols
   1. Staff who are not vaccinated must submit weekly negative covid results
   2. One classroom already in quarantine
   3. School preparing for a highly disrupted year due to covid
   4. Might Breakthrough institute a temperature check? This results in a line of children accumulating, which is problematic
   5. Michael asked about pickup and dropoff and congestion. Hannah explained different entry/exit doors and following appropriate timing discipline with parents. Proactive approach at ANC meeting, At East End there was a park and ride system where people continuously move on.
2. 6:34pm: Adjourn