



## **Statesmen College Preparatory Academy for Boys PCS**

### **Minutes of January 26, 2022, Board Meeting (via Zoom)**

1. **Board Members Present (via Zoom):** Alicia Adams, Samantha Barbee, Mary Brown, James Cadogan, Shawn Hardnett, Ray McKenzie, Sandi McCoy, Juan Pagan, Kenny Pegram, Bisi Oyedele, Nicole Solomon Mitchell, Satira Streeter Corbitt, Raymond Weeden and Bernie Woolfley.
2. **Board Members Absent:** Greg Van Houten.
3. **Staff Members Present:** Amanda Bloom (Dean of Instruction), Rictor Craig (Director of Instruction) and Joe Marren (EdOps).
4. **Roll Call:** Roll call was taken, the results of which are reflected above.
5. **Approval of October 26, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**
  - a. R. McKenzie moved to approve the October 2021 Board Retreat Meeting Minutes. S. Hardnett seconded the motion. The present board members unanimously approved the October 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.
6. **Board Committee Summary Reports**
  - a. N. Mitchell introduced a new document created to make board members aware of what committees are working on between full board meetings and more thoughtfully share progress toward goals. The document can be modified as deemed appropriate going forward.
7. **Discussion of Board Giving**
  - a. N. Mitchell noted the importance of reaching 100% Board giving for purposes of obtaining grants and other donations. Acknowledgements will be sent to Board members who have donated. She will be reaching out to others to ensure 100% participation.
8. **Financial Report**
  - a. S. Barbee reported that the Finance Committee met with the auditors to review the financial statements. The audited financials were filed with PCSB on time for the December reporting deadline.
  - b. J. Marren (EdOps) reviewed the December financial report and then provided more detail before opening up for questions. The school is forecasting to end the year with 114 days of cash and a gross margin of -2.1% which is lower than budgeted (139 days)

but not significantly less. S. Barbee noted that historically forecasts at this point in the year tend to appear more dire than where we end up on June 30.

- c. The Finance Committee continues to look at the five-year model and will be presenting a revised model to the board in March. The FY23 budget process will begin soon. While PCSB has moved the budget submission deadline back to July 2022, the Finance Committee expects to present the budget for approval at the May Board meeting, as usual.
- d. R. McKenzie asked about the overall financial outlook. J. Marren responded that the financials were forecasted conservatively, and that the school's financial outlook is healthy. The school has a good amount of cash on hand and there are still some contingencies in the forecasts.

**9. School Update (S. Hardnett, R. Craig, A. Bloom)**

- a. Attendance is high (i.e., above 90% in seat daily attendance, significantly higher than other schools). The school is still engaging the same protocols, double ventilating, masking, etc. and the last two weeks have had no COVID cases. There does not appear to be a lot of transmission occurring in school due to the protocols. Leadership is prepping staff for a District-wide booster mandate which will be enforced starting 3/15; trying to understand what freedom/latitude LEAs have regarding vaccine/booster mandates.
- b. Discipline issues have been on the decline following the winter break. Lower School Mornings have been reshaped to focus on relationship building, celebration, and red-carpet treatment to make sure the boys feel welcomed and start the school day strong.
- c. All staff positions are filled except 5th grade Kings 101 and an instructional aid.
- d. Faculty and staff have increased engagement with Georgetown MedStar Center for Wellbeing in School Environments (WISE). Accordingly, there has been a decrease in some of the "tension" being brought to campus by adults. Students are also engaged in individual and group therapy. There continues to be considerable trauma tied to the disproportionate effect of the pandemic on the lives of students, families, and staff. In-school therapy is proving essential.
- e. Staff professional development is focused on planning, prepping, and delivering good instruction. The Leadership Team is spending an average of 500-800 minutes a week to work directly with faculty and staff. There is increased focus on holding staff accountable for lesson planning, adequate time spent preparing for lessons, and practicing good instruction some of which is based on feedback following regular observation.
- f. R. Craig is leading a Pilot Executive Leadership Program with the National Association of Black Male Educators (NAMBE). The aim is to build stronger educational leaders across the city. The initial pilot, which begins in February, will involve Statesmen staff and other Black male educators working in D.C.
- g. On December 8, 2021, the school held a session with 6-7 grade parents regarding different high school options and general requirements for admission (e.g., on grade-level reading, writing, math, with minimal behavior problems, application, essay, etc.). Scholars and

parents are being strongly encouraged to begin thinking about high school matriculation. The session will be offered again early spring.

- h. Scholars are currently taking NWEA MAP. Preliminary highlights for ELA: 79% of scholars have shown growth, not necessarily the goal of 10 points, but some growth; 35% have made expected growth. Leadership has not been able to analyze math but has noticed growth at a lower rate than ELA. A full report and analysis will be shared at the March board meeting.
- i. Full execution of Lavinia ELA and Math curricula is underway for fourth and fifth graders. So far, Lavinia math lacks fluency but is proving rigorous. Full execution of Springboard ELA and Math curricula for sixth and seventh graders is also underway. Ongoing development of PCI for Science and a formalized written curriculum for Kings 101 are both works in progress.
- j. Attendance and engagement for students with disabilities remains high. Four special education students have tested out and no longer have the designation.
- k. D.C. is losing educators at a rapid and unprecedented pace. The pool for new hires is limited and Statesmen's recruiting and retention strategy remains to "develop our way to excellence." The focus is on professional development and building systems that support teachers achieving the best academic outputs while they are with Statesmen and creating a culture and work environment encouraging 5-year retention vs. the typical 2-3 years.

#### **10. Bylaw Review & Vote**

- a. S. McCoy presented revised Bylaws to the Board institutionalizing its deep commitment to being anti-racist and aligning Bylaws to the Board's Anti-racist Statement, Beliefs, Commitments & Actions. New Bylaws were unanimously approved and adopted by the Board and will be sent to PCSB for approval.

#### **11. Public Session - Open Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. EST.**

#### **12. Executive Session**

- a. Executive Session was held to discuss S. Hardnett's annual performance evaluation and to update the board on P.R. Harris and facility next steps.
- b. Executive session adjourned at 9 p.m. EST.