



Board Minutes – August 25, 2022

Our Mission: Through rigorous curriculum, high quality instruction, and positive character development, Purpose Preparatory Academy Charter School ensures all K-4 students achieve the academic skills, knowledge, and ethical foundation to be set on the path to college.

A. Attendance

Present by Zoom: Ryann Casey, Perry Gooch, Matt Hancock, Lara Henley, Dale Mitchell, Kathy Nelson, Lagra Newman (Head of School), Sallie Norton, Rohit Padmanabhan, Domonique Townsend, Charlandra Watson

Absent: Dr. Jerri Haynes

Guests: Lydia Hoffman with Charter Group Growth Fund

B. Proceedings

1. Ryann Casey called Meeting to order @ **8:38 a.m. CST**; Matt Hancock made motion to approve the May 22, 2022 minutes. Dale Mitchell seconded.

2. Fund Development

Lagra Newman reported that the school has been in communication with Jalen Ramsey and that he sent the initial investment of his pledge. Further, the school also fully liquidated the ESSER 2 and ESSER 3 funding which is emergency relief funding for the pandemic, reimbursing us for Covid-19 expenses.

Sallie Norton announced that the Celebration of Purpose Prep's 10th Anniversary will be held on April 22, 2023 and we have a contract with Loews Hotel for that date. She encouraged Board Members to think about possibilities for sponsorships and patrons for this exciting event.

3. Finance

Dale Mitchell reported that the proposed budget for the year was approved by email

4. Facilities

Perry Gooch reported that the committee has been meeting monthly and that the big picture of facility needs are in the range of \$15,000,000, 5 acres of land, and 100,000 sq. ft. He reported that we spent \$4,000,000 to purchase land and build the current building which is 26,000 sq. ft. Dale Mitchell is investigating the Kings Lane School building which is empty. He is seeking a long-term lease for that building.

Proposed budget (approved by Finance committee) for FY23. Dale Mitchell will share w/ board and include notes from Jenny Tabor (EdTec). Finance committee will provide an approval process through email to get the FY23 budget approved before June 30, 2022.

Also, BEP funding increased to just shy of \$14k/student. Biggest increase are salaries and transportation expenses. Board has April finances. There's a decrease in projected surplus but that hasn't impacted school operations. The school is improving its management and organization of uncategorized revenue and expenses. Uncategorized expenses aren't of major concern. EOY cash projection is 150+ days cash on hand. Dale Mitchell mentioned board giving, urging board members to give their annual gift.

5. Head of School Report/Lydia Hoffman Presentation of Results

Lydia Hoffman from Charter Group Growth Fund was our guest and gave us a report on student outcome data and reported on how Purpose Prep stands in their ranking. Purpose Prep is outperforming the pre-pandemic data in reading and math. In math, Purpose Prep had the highest gain of any school in MNPS with the strongest outcomes for students of color. Data points include:

- 1) Level 5 designation in the state - the highest - for achievement and growth in ELA and growth in math.
- 2) Purpose Prep is one of only 3 schools in the entire district to earn a level 5 in ELA Achievement. But the only of those schools serving a significant Black and Economically Disadvantaged population of students.
- 3) Purpose Prep leads all schools within MNPS (@metroschools) in serving economically disadvantaged elementary-school students.
- 4) Purpose Prep ranks #1 for African American proficiency in ELA among non-selective public schools and #2 for math!

We discussed how to tell the story of the success of Purpose Prep and there was consensus that we should hire a firm to help develop a plan to market our success. Last year was the toughest year with staff shortages, returning to in-person learning, navigating safety protocols, yet we have the best results of any school in MNPS. Lydia explained that all schools should have increased their growth numbers after the pandemic, but beyond growth, Purpose Prep exceeded their academic achievement levels pre-pandemic.

We discussed developing a plan with a well crafted message to spread the word and share our success, as well as hosting celebrations for our community. We want to impact more students with the strength of the Purpose Prep program. Purpose Prep enjoyed success across the board in this report.

Kathy Nelson will contact the Pinnacle Communications Dept to determine if they have funding left from a program which highlights successful non-profits before we hire a marketing company.

Lagra Newman discussed staffing challenges and that she is aggressively hiring teachers to keep the bar high. Propose prep is fully staffed going into the school year. Every class has two teachers, using Fellows with our extra funds available to us now.

Lydia stated that this is the year to make a move for expansion of Purpose Prep because of our documented success and the 10th Anniversary. Lagra mentioned RISE which can provide consulting for strategic planning and our annual report. Lydia is willing to lead our strategy session, too.

5. Governance

We discussed potential people to serve on our Board. It was recommended that we investigate the Young Leaders Legal Council Board for ideas for Board members. Sallie has two people who are interested in touring the school.

Meeting adjourned @ **9.49 a.m. CST**

Prepared by: Sallie Norton