



MINUTES

The Family Place Public Charter School

Date | time February 10, 2021 | 6:30pm - 7:30pm | *Location* Virtual Meeting, Zoom

In Attendance

BOARD MEMBERS		
NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mavis I. Ardon	X	
Ann B. Barnet	X	
Michael D. Barnet	X	
Shawn Chakrabarti	X	
Dania Diaz Amaya		X
Barbara Finkelstein	X	
Sarah Friedman	X	
Natalia Isaza Brando	X	
Domminick Mcparland		X
Oralia Puente	X	
Elaine Weiss	X	

Others Present: Lawrence Garr, Haley Wiggins, Ana Acevedo, Fernando Saldana, Yinzu Nairouz, Patricia Oholeguy and Yu Yang

Approval of Minutes

Roll call vote: Michael (small typo for month of December), Barbara, Sarah, Shawn, Elaine, Oralia, Mavis, Ann, Natalia.

December minutes were approved.

Motions

None at this meeting.

Amendments

None at this meeting.

Votes Taken

None at this meeting.

Description of Matters Discussed

Michael welcomes everyone, notes how much exciting work is going on, plans for the future.

Haley informs the Board that Domminick wanted to join to provide an update. He had to resign from our Board – he just started a job with the Department of Education, precludes his continued membership, though he'll continue to volunteer. We need to look for an additional DC resident Board member.

Haley proposes that we change our meetings from the second Wednesday to the third Tuesday of the month. No objections, so we are moving forward with this. We also agreed to improve process for sharing Zoom link, to make it easier for the technically challenged. Haley also notes that we used to start at 6:30pm due to parking. Easier to start at 6pm? Michael says yes, we would get done earlier, also seems easier.

New meeting days – Third Tuesday of every other month at 6pm.

Yu provides financial update:

- All info available in packet, still in fantastic financial shape, even better than predicted in November.
- Reopening grants would provide additional funding. We are still \$342K over our expected revenue, plus \$60K savings in expenses (favorable adjustments for rentals we did not need and occupancy, as well as textbooks and events we didn't have/use).
- Audit: for FY20, auditor noted three issues to consider: risk of fraud, QuickBooks accounting software, and organizational structure (encouraging strong Board engagement, which improves quality of school).
 - Michael quickly asks about fraud: Do we have benchmarks with respect to how other organizations like Academy of Hope, deal with this?
 - Yu: always recommend periodic review of financial policies to make sure they're up-to-date, and take into account any advice from auditors.
 - Sarah asks another questions about fraud, how do we know things are working wee?
 - We have the internal ability to prevent fraud, because we know when there is problematic behavior.

Laurel shares her Academic Update:

- Classes started Jan. 4, core classes still virtual, two new CDA cohorts, so meeting jointly to maximize instructional hours.
- In-person support still limited to specific types of needs. May add more small-group/specialized support in the near future. CPR will also be in person in the spring.
- Still providing devices, support (Chromebooks, hotspots) for students. Google classroom now dominant, many steps, so may need support.
- A bit of a drop in tests b/c conditions not great, will continue to post-test those not yet tested through March-April.
- OSSE grant provides for ongoing collab w/ TFP, including career workshops in January, on soft skills and goal-setting. Two more planned for later this year.
- Students continue to struggle w/ conflicts due to work schedules as well as personal issues. Motivating is very hard, though Laurel is giving pep talks. Even with all these challenges, students feel they are making progress, and the personalized support teachers are providing means a lot right now!
 - Haley: how does this compare to last year?
 - Laurel: about the same.

- Haley: We are working to get more tutoring, etc., so more of them can go up, this is tough in all school settings.
- Fernando also notes that we're not too far from our goals.

Fernando provides his report:

- Showing student demographics by age. Was almost impossible, b/c very diverse (looks like a huge pizza w/ a million colors ☺).
- As far as race and ethnicity, heavily Latino, working to bring in more students from other racial and ethnic groups in the next school year.
- Re-enrollment, did outreach, scheduling appointments, but only 36 showed up. We are doing our best to provide remote support.
 - A LOT OF TIME required to get students enrolled (160 hours of staff work to get the new students we have).
- 134 students as of December, would like more, but as people get jobs, harder to commit. As of Feb. 1, added enough students to get to 164, but situation is fluid.
- Attendance: 79% in December, went up to 83% in January, very good news. Overall, over 78%, so above Tier 1 and above last year. Good news all around! Starting to look several years ahead for goals!!!

Haley provides her report:

- We hired new instructional coach (Carlye #2), offered position to new math instructor who will help soon with math support.
- Reopening plan/operating status: core classes currently remote, in-person for registration, testing, tech support. And, of course, COVID food distribution, rental support, CDA, and others.
- Moving forward, most of classes will remain remote for now, but will add some in-person services in March or April, if safe to do so. Haley explains safety, logistical reasons for staying remote when many schools are reopening, given that many of our students are older. They have set up protections for in-person activities and in prep for if/when students do come back.

Next Meeting

April 20, 2021 | 6pm | Virtual Meeting, Zoom

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:48pm and was passed unanimously.