

APPROVED



E.L. Haynes Public Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday April 28, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Location

Conference Call Line: 202-509-0565

Trustees Present

A. Smith (remote), C. Lujan (remote), D. McCoy (remote), E. Westendorf (remote), J. Edelman (remote), K. Simmons (remote), L. Carlton (remote), L. Jordan (remote), M. Hall (remote), N. Greene (remote), R. Payes (remote), T. Wincup (remote)

Trustees Absent

M. McDonough, S. Shah

Guests Present

A. Baron, A. Kramer (remote), A. Parekh, A. Schlick (remote), A. Schwartz, B. Moorman, B. Wagner-Friel (remote), E. Huber, F. Wassmer, H. Darilek (remote), J. Callahan (remote), M. Lewis, R. Hunt Taylor, V. Carlo-Miranda (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Smith called a meeting of the board of trustees of E.L. Haynes Public Charter School to order on Tuesday Apr 28, 2020 @ 6:03 PM.

C. Approve March 26, 2020 Minutes

E. Westendorf made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 03-26-20.

L. Carlton seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Public Comment

II. Management Updates

A. CEO Update

CEO Darilek began her update noting the end of the third quarter and beginning of an abbreviated fourth quarter of the school year. She referred to DC Mayor Bowser's recent announcement that DC public schools will not reopen this year, with distance learning ending three weeks early on May 29.

CEO Darilek remarked on the additional focus on communications to the school community, and thanked Board members for their participation in calls and optional planning sessions. She then shared updates across the school community:

- Members of the Race & Equity Steering Committee continue to meet and met earlier that day.
- At the High School, Seniors for DC History hosted an evening viewing of the *Nine Lives of Marion Barry*, with a discussion following. Members of the High School staff also will be hosting a two-hour, virtual karaoke event.
- Middle School students finished their ANet testing and results improved from the prior year in almost every grade and subject.
- Last week, the Elementary School hosted an all-school meeting virtually.

CEO Darilek then provided updates on virtual enrollment and hiring processes and discussed the 2021 calendar.

B. COVID Planning Update

CEO Darilek next provided an update on COVID-19 related items. She first discussed food distribution for families. The distribution has been moved from Hook Hall to the Kansas Avenue campus twice a week, and is open to any student enrolled in DC schools. In addition to food, pantry bags and toilet paper are also available for families.

Next, CEO Darilek informed the Board of decisions made with respect to the end of the school year. Last week, a task force made up of the leadership team, staff, and parents, agreed that the academic year would end on May 29 with the following two weeks to be used for celebrations as a school community. She emphasized the importance of prioritizing relationships with students and families. CEO Darilek also indicated the need to seek a formal waiver from OSSE as the schools did not meet the required 180-day instructional requirement.

CEO Darilek last discussed initial thinking about summer learning opportunities and the 2020-2021 school year.

III. Audit, Finance, and Facilities Committee

A. Budget Update

Audit Finance Facilities Committee Chair Greene referred to the materials provided in advance of the meeting. He commented favorably on the current financial position of the school, complimented COO Carlo-Miranda and her team, and noted tough decisions that would need to be made moving forward. He turned to COO Carlo-Miranda to provide a budget update.

COO Carlo-Miranda remarked on the strong financial position at the end of the school year, and stressed the need to leverage this financial strength for future periods and unknowns in light of COVID-19. She indicated that the PCSB has extended its deadline for the 2020-2021 school year budget to July 1, and noted that a robust discussion of the budget would be held at the May Board meeting, with approval sought at the June Board retreat.

COO Carlo-Miranda then discussed changes and potential risk factors to key line items in the draft 2020-2021 school year budget, including potential reductions in the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula and higher increases in healthcare premiums, among others. She indicated that the current draft of the budget exceeds requirements in our covenants.

In response to a question from a Board member, COO Carlo-Miranda discussed scenario planning for various distance learning and social distancing needs for next school year.

IV. Development Committee

A. Update

Senior Director of Development and Communications Callahan provided an update on the Annual Fund. He reported on the year-end forecast for the fund. Mr. Callahan then discussed likely fundraising challenges over the next year due to the potential impact of the economic downturn on donors.

V. School Performance Committee

A. Class of 2020 Update

School Performance Committee Chair Westendorf reported on the Class of 2020, including college acceptances to date and student progress in completing DC Tuition Assistance Grants. He noted the selection of a member of the Class of 2020 as a Posse Scholar, and informed the Board of concerns and questions raised by parents on pros and cons of choosing a virtual university next year as opposed to on-campus learning in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Westendorf then shared ideas to celebrate graduating seniors.

B. Home Learning Strategy

Next, Committee Chair Westendorf led a discussion on successes and challenges with distance learning to date. He commented favorably on the creativity, diligence, and adaptability of the staff to support the community, and noted the high percentage of students reached each week. Committee Chair Westendorf acknowledged challenges faced by students and families, the need to provide additional clarity around the goals of distance learning, and concerns around teacher burnout.

He then asked Dr. Rikki Hunt Taylor, the new Chief Academic Officer, to share her initial impressions. Dr. Hunt Taylor shared her excitement to be part of the E.L. Haynes community. She described her key areas of focus, including building relationships with staff, improving home learning guidance in preparation for next year, brainstorming on the role of technology in the future, focusing on social emotional learning, and functioning as one campus, among other items.

Board Chair Smith invited principals and teachers at the meeting to share their perspectives on distance learning. Themes shared included apprehension associated with starting a new school year virtually, the necessity to identify wellness supports needed by staff and students, and whether Covid-19 will widen the achievement gap, among others.

VI. Executive Session

A. Executive Session of the Board

The Board met in executive session with CEO Darilek to discuss matters of mutual interest.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. McCoy