



Elm City Montessori School
Board of Trustees Meeting
4 October 2017

Attendees: Mira Debs, Eliza Halsey, Keith Krolak, David Low, Mike Nast, and Julia Webb. Alayna Stone joined by phone.

Meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm.

1. General Updates

- a. The board welcomed Mike Nast who has joined the Board of Trustees
- b. Francoise Leger has resigned as the teacher representative of the Board of Trustees. The board thanks Francoise for her service and will welcome a new board member from the ECMS faculty in the upcoming weeks.
- c. Board of Trustees September meeting minutes were approved.

2. Principal's Update

- a. Individual classrooms have been creating class charters.
- b. Level Team meetings and staff meetings are being held on a regular basis.
- c. Amelia Sherwood temporarily assumed some of the responsibilities of the Director of Social Emotional Learning when Kendra Hammond left in September. Amelia has now formally transitioned into the position. The title of the position has been changed to "Dean of Students."
- d. Principal is working on preparations for the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) site visit in the coming weeks
- e. Principal is sharing ECMS materials with key NHPS staff members, so that they are keep abreast of implementation and compliance

3. Executive Director's Update

- a. Updated FY18 school budget was presented and reviewed by the board
- b. Budget agreement has been reached with the New Haven Board of Education; district will pay a total of \$360,000 in four installments; the budget is based on a per pupil amount of \$12,698 (an increase of \$563/student from FY17 amount)
- c. Critical next hires – Social Worker, possible Special Education teacher, followed by two paraprofessionals for teaching positions
- d. MOU with NHPS finalized; must be approved by the New Haven Board of Education
- e. NHPS will share financials monthly moving forward

- f. ED engaging Graustein and reaching out to PCLB regarding future funding
- g. Discussion occurred about alders visiting – may need to engage more so they become more familiar with ECMS
- h. Work orders have been slow – budgets have been cut and positions eliminated
- i. Working with Principal to incorporate attendance, meetings, and ECMS equipment to meet school district standards

4. Action Items

- a. Agreement between Elm City Montessori School and John Freeman approved contingent upon an adjustment of contract language to be finalized by Principal and ECMS Board President by 18 October 2017
- b. ECMS annual budget unanimously approved by the Board

5. Committee Updates

- a. Capital Planning Committee
 - i. Executive Director updated a conversation with Lisa Defosses of Achievement First regarding buildings that are currently available as a replacement for the current ECMS building which will be overcrowded in two years at current growth projections
 - ii. We are still interested in the Blake Street building, which may be available
 - iii. Procuring proper funding for an updated building continues to be a challenge
 - iv. Suggestion made that Capital Planning Committee speak with the acting Superintendent of New Haven Public Schools regarding the search for a properly-sized school building in New Haven
 - v. Next steps: meet with State legislators then convening a capital planning meeting

6. Next Steps

Check in with State Legislators regarding funding and support for an updated school property	Eliza & Keith	October
Principal and ECMS Board President will revise and finalize language in John Freeman's contract	Mira & Julia	October 18

The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

END OF MINUTES