



A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on January 16, 2018 at 6:00PM.

I. Administrative

A. The meeting was called to order by Alys Campaigne at 6:02pm.

B. Board Members Roll Call: Mark Bowden, William Quantz, Jack Moore (by phone), Alys Campaigne, John McFarlane, Dr. Jennifer Albert, Keith McElveen (by phone), Morgan Futch, Walter Loiselle (by phone). Ex-officio: Dr. Tim Gott.

II. New Business

William provided a financial update and reviewed the November financials. Revenues are tracking the budget. Ordinary income is 121% of budget.

William is working with Dr. Gott on a 2018-2019 budget to present to the Finance Committee in February. There is discussion of a potential 5% increase in the per pupil rate for the SCPCSD. There may also be a new state-funded pilot project for transportation. We will track the issues as the legislature takes them up.

William got the annual insurance binder showing no increase in our property insurance premium for this year. It is \$20,447 annually. We could add terrorism coverage for \$605. William will get more detail on what the policy would encompass and will revisit the issue with the board.

III. Principal's report – Dr. Tim Gott

A. Status of Learning Cottages

Dr. Gott noted that there was contracting confusion with the architect who has not yet submitted the final plans to OSF. This process has offered lessons on how much lead time is necessary for facility changes or approval - luckily our current space is manageable for now. We are looking to find a contractor who can oversee the final electrical and plumbing drawings and submit for full approval. The builders are under contract with a retaining fee and will be ready when the plans are signed and finalized.

B. Building Repair Status

Floor repairs are planned for summer 2018. There are no major changes though the floors have been in slightly better shape with the colder weather and relatively low humidity. Mark will follow up with Jim Garvey who can help oversee the process and provide installation history.

C. Bus Subsidizing

There is transportation money in this year's budget to subsidize some field trips and high school transport to Trident and College of Charleston. PSA is currently paying \$3,700 a month to support the Summerville and second Mount Pleasant bus line due to numbers of riders. Transportation subsidies for bus service will cost roughly \$30,000 next year. PSA is also talking with Coastal Busing to assess a second option. Keith offered to talk with CARTA to explore potential opportunities for the Summerville line. Morgan mentioned potential to explore a new pay for participation model with the vendor. All agreed that transportation options are important to offer to our families.

D. LED Lighting

Dr. Gott more information on the lighting package from Helios. PSA would pay roughly \$800 a month for a savings of \$900 a month with an additional SCE&G rebate. The accountant and Helios are working on details and a proposed contract. Keith noted that the decreased air circulation potential issue is covered under their warranty and ballasts are included in the package. Helios felt that we would realize potential savings on ballast efficiency in addition to the benefit of not having to incur the staff time to replace them ourselves. Dr. Gott will forward the information for approval by email.

Dr. Gott also gave an update on student count and the budget. There are currently 507 students. 71 in 6th, 96 in 7th, 97 in 8th, 68 in 9th, 71 in 10th, 60 in 11th, and 44 in 12th. 72 students will be added in the new 6th grade year. For 9th grade, we will not backfill the attrition in order to shrink the "bubble" back closer to 72 and to allow the teaching blocks to be consistent across the grades which facilitates scheduling. With anticipated attrition next year's student count is likely to increase by roughly 13 students. We will budget for 520 students. Our charter cap is 504 but the SCPCSD is aware of the size and has stated that it is not necessary to amend our charter language to address the small variance until our full charter renewal is submitted in 2019. As of today, the lottery has 729 names. There are 313 sixth, 93 seventh, 96 eighth, 165 ninth and lower numbers in the upper high school grades. We may not be able to take any 9th grade new students based on recent attrition rates.

IV. Updates

A. Policy & Human Resources– Keith McElveen/ Alys Campaigne

PSA is amending its mission statement to ensure that it is both succinct and consistent with state charter law. The proposed mission amendment language is below and will be submitted as a charter amendment to SCPCSD this week after board approval.

Palmetto Scholars Academy (PSA) exists to meet the distinctive academic, social, and emotional needs of students by utilizing best practices of gifted education.

The proposed nominating committee is Mike Limina, Lisa Hakamiun, Rita Adkins, Alys Campaigne and Jennifer Hildebrand.

B. Development & Fundraising – Walter Loiselle

Walter asked the board how to address the need to enhance capacity and the overall priority of fundraising to make meaningful use of our software for appeals and campaigns. Ms. Hakamiun is assisting as a liaison but has limited time. Susan Durand will be stepping down as head of the PCA to pursue other work. She may have some time to help with fundraising but would need compensation. She has strong familiarity both with the software and with the school's fundraising history. Lisa, Walter and Tim will talk further about what scope would be appropriate and Tim will get details on availability and rate.

C. Military – John McFarlane

John spoke with base leadership and questions about the lottery process – particularly maintaining awareness of the available number of open slots and timing – and military representation on the board came up. There was curiosity about whether military representation on the board should mirror the lottery goal of 20%. We discussed the board make up requirements as defined in state law and the charter that do not create a special category for military representation. PSA will continue to offer one seat on the board and Joint Base has discretion in providing a suggested candidate to fill John's seat when he leaves later this spring. Dr. Gott is following up regarding the lottery process and timing issues.

The shuttle service for after school service has begun with 18 riders. JBC is still drafting a response to our letter of inquiry about land.

D. Facilities – Mark Bowden

Items were discussed previously under New Business.

E. Communications – Morgan Futch

Tabled.

F. Academic Excellence – Dr. Jennifer Albert

No report.

V. Action Items

A. Approve new mission statement. Jack made a motion to approve. William seconded. All in favor.

B. Vote to approve November financials. Keith made a motion to approve, Jack seconded. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm. The next board meeting will be held February 20, 2018 at 6:00pm.

Your Governing Board
