



Hawthorn Board of Directors Meeting
January 23, 2023
1901 N. Kingshighway Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63113
Convened by Zoom

Board Members Present: Kathryn Love (Chair), Matt Coen, Rachana Creeth, Hal Davies, Mil Galvin, Edes Gilbert, Alex Pearson, Liesl Schnuck, Mary Stillman

Hawthorn Staff Present: Daphne Morgan, Kaleigh Lawrence, Dorvonda Payne, Taylor Jones, LaToya Stewart

Others Present: Nikki Doughty, Lori Sommer

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

The consent agenda and the check register were moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

Hal Davies gave the Finance Committee Report. There is positive momentum. We are seeing a slight improvement with transportation expenditures.

Edes Gilbert provided the Governance Committee Report. There is planning for the coming year with board candidate reviews, a streamline of the Head of School evaluation form and process as well as board member renewals and departures. Kathryn Love, Chair of the Board, has indicated her intention to step aside from board chair next year and a new chair will be nominated. The committee is working on a slate of officers for the coming year and will present to the board in early spring.

LaToya Stewart, School Counselor, was invited to the meeting to speak on the culture of Hawthorn. This is LaToya's first year as a school counselor. She was a teacher for seven years before stepping into the counselor role. She is currently working with the seniors on completion of their college applications and has college visits planned. Some of the popular schools for the girls are Mizzou, Florida A&M University, Washington University and UMSL. There have been three college acceptances out of 7 from Lindenwood, Mizzou and Tiger Pathways Community College. The middle schoolers are enjoying life. They are getting a great experience and they desire one-on-one attention. She provides a lot of emotional support for the girls who may find themselves struggling with various issues. Any resources the board may have as it relates to mental health would be beneficial.

Daphne Morgan and Liesl Schnuck provided the Academic Report. There is progress and promise from the standardized test results Hawthorn administers to measure growth. This is a good barometer for future programs and initiatives.

Daphne Morgan gave an update on the Measuring Success recommendations. The board continues to keep the recommendations top of mind to determine how best to implement them with Daphne and the staff. A couple of recommendations such as community outreach and the parent ambassador program are already underway. We can continue to build these programs out for greater impact. Daphne also stated that we are not seeing the progress desired for the open enrollment manager position. We are seeking other alternatives to advance this search.

Kathryn Love gave the Board Chair Report. The February board meeting will be a joint session between the School Board and the Foundation. We will have three experts speak on various topics. In addition, there was a motion for the board to approve the Community Engagement Policy; it was seconded and approved.

Daphne Morgan provided the Head of School Update. Hawthorn added two high school electives:

- Green Architecture class - it is a Project Lead the Way class
- Computer Science, which was previously only a middle school science elective

As part of the commitment to culture there was a MLK Day program at Centennial Church with a student and staff panel. McCarthy Construction gave a presentation to the students on careers in construction.

There were three staff recognitions:

- Dr. Slivka – St. Louis Art Museum teacher advisory group – speaking about art education
- Mary Bueckendorf - Presidential Awards for Math and Science Teaching - Nominee
- Taylor Jones - Presenter at the Whole Girl Education National Conference (March 2023)

The Board expressed congratulations and the Board secretary will write thank you notes to the teachers for these recognitions. Additional information on teacher development, instructional vision and adult culture can be found in the Head of School report. Daphne identified teacher turnover as a potential risk which she is focused on.

Kaleigh Lawrence gave the Foundation Report. The upcoming Charidy Campaign begins Wednesday, March 1 at 2p.m. There is a draft party planned at Mary's house on Tuesday, February 21.

Dorvonda Payne gave an update on the Cool Women Hot Jobs event. It was a huge success. Everything from the signage, marketing and communications was well put together. Various career positions were represented including doctors, an architect, baker and twitch streamer. There is a plan to do this again later in the year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The board did not go into closed session.