



Hawthorn Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2020
1901 N. Kingshighway Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63113

Regular Meeting

Board Members Present: Kathryn Love (Chair), Liz Buchman, Rachana Creeth, Nikki Doughty, Mil Galvin, Edes Gilbert, Sara Goellner, Angell Farley Jackson, Alex Pearson, Mary Stillman

Hawthorn Staff Present: Daphne Robinson, Alisa Bennett-Hart, Carol Mendez and Mary Bueckendorf

Others Present: Sierhah Price, Kristie Skor, Claire Byrne, Rose Windmiller, Lori Sommers

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Kathryn Love.
2. No members of the public attended this meeting.
3. Faculty and Staff Reports:
 - a. Carol Mendez, Dean of Academics – Shared Math Curriculum, successful use of virtual tools such as Navigator platform, DESMOS and Zoom. Played video of Math Lesson “Think about It” exercise featuring Hawthorn scholars.
 - b. Mary Bueckendorf, Middle School Science – Discussed Science curriculum.
 - c. Alisa Bennett-Hart, Project Coordinator – Shared Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs in the realm of education in the time of COVID as it impacts our girls.

The consent agenda was moved, seconded and approved unanimously at 5:28 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the “Local Plan for Compliance with State Regulations implementing Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act”, which was circulated to the Board (the model SPED compliance documents provided by DESE), it was seconded and unanimously approved.

A motion was made to name Daphne Robinson the School’s homeless coordinator under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, it was seconded and approved unanimously.

Sierhah Price of EdOps and Rachana Creeth gave the Finance Committee Report. Price explained Key Assumptions regarding Revenue/Expenses for this school year in the proposed revised 2020-21 Budget

Revenue:

- Local - Foundation commitment of \$850K and \$125k from The Opportunity Trust
- State – The WADA is set to FY19-20 amount, however it can be updated.
- Federal – ESSER allocation of \$110K and School Improvement Grant (SIG) of \$163K

Expenses:

- Salaries & Benefits – 22 current employees plus three position to be filled in October reflect a budget increase of \$118K.
- Staff related costs – \$15k for Student Leadership Network to support college counselling program
- Occupancy Service – \$37k increase in building related improvements
- Student Expense, Direct – \$105k increase for technology cost
- Student Expense, Indirect – \$20k increase SIS, CIC and Nurse supplies
- Office & Business – \$20k increase for office, business & accounting

Net Income: \$-91,308

Conclusion: The proposed revised budget will result in a slight decrease in the net loss than the current budget. There has been a better financial start to the year than anticipated. The school is making efforts to decrease spend per girl, including by hiring a staff member whose main responsibility is recruitment and retention of students.

The Board accepted the finance report and moved, seconded and approved unanimously the revised Budget for the 2020-21 School Year.

Daphne Robinson then gave the Head of School Report. Robinson explained the increase in school expenses related to the Launch curriculum in the high school and other technology support. Enrollment is currently 113 students. She reported on the four key Head of Schools goals: student assessment results in English and math, staff culture and morale, management of the budget and enrollment targets.

Robinson discussed plans for reopening the school to in-person classes; considerations include:

- Key indicator – Covid cases are stable or going down
- Staging rooms for distancing
- Engaging with parents and staff for their perspectives
- Instruction planning for both virtual and in building
- Considering staggered reopening and hybrid days

Nikki Doughty discussed online/in-person school landscape in St. Louis. A discussion followed.

Mary Stillman and Claire Byrne gave the Foundation report. The foundation will send a donor appeal out before end of the year. Captiva putting together a “Day in the Life” video that will be shared with donors.

The Board then approved a motion by following roll call vote to enter Closed Session to discuss legal (§ 610.021(1) RSMo.) and personnel (§ 610.021(3) and (13) RSMo.) matters.

Liz Buchman - aye
Rachana Creeth -- aye
Nikki Doughty -- aye
Mil Galvin - aye
Edes Gilbert -- aye

Sara Goellner - aye
Angell Jackson -- aye
Kathryn Love – aye
Alex Pearson - aye
Mary Stillman – aye

A resolution to exit the Closed Session was approved by the following roll call vote:

Liz Buchman - aye
Rachana Creeth -- aye
Nikki Doughty -- aye
Mil Galvin - aye
Edes Gilbert -- aye

Sara Goellner - aye
Angell Farley Jackson -- aye
Kathryn Love – aye
Alex Pearson - aye
Mary Stillman – aye

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:48 p.m.
Recorded by Alisa Bennett-Hart