



Hawthorn Board of Directors Meeting
April 20, 2020
1901 N. Kingshighway Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63113

Regular Meeting

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

Hawthorn Staff Present on zoom: Daphne Robinson, Sikina Lee

Others Present on zoom: Sierhah Price, Kristie Skor, Claire Byrne, Lori Sommers, Victoria May, Mia Howard (The Opportunity Trust), Eric Scroggins (The Opportunity Trust)

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Kathryn Love.

The consent agenda was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

The Finance Committee Report was given by Sierhah Price, Rachana Creeth and Jessica Portis; it included a review of March financials. Sierhah Price stated that, at year end, the school projects having a 30-day cash balance (approximately \$218.46K) and a net loss. The school submitted a Payroll Protection Act loan application on April 3, 2020, and it has not been funded yet. There will be also more money coming from the Federal government. Rachana Creeth stated that the budget for the 2020-2021 school year would be submitted at the May board meeting.

The board then heard a special presentation by Eric Scroggins and Mia Howard of The Opportunity Trust titled Insights into Urban Education in St. Louis. Ms. Howard described how the organization has assisted Hawthorn, including by funding strategic planning by Attuned Education Partners, supporting coaching related to new Achievement First curriculum, and undertaking a talent needs assessment and coaching.

Mr. Scroggins then gave his views on the Implications and Opportunities related to the Covid-19 pandemic. The implications of the move to close schools include accelerated learning loss; exacerbated inequality, exposing fundamental flaws in school organizations; significant potential funding shortfall in coming year absent a federal bailout; and suspended state testing

and accountability. Then, he described opportunities including that the crisis is an opportunity to “restart” models of curriculum, communication and technology; leveraging our small student population and being agile; and using summer programming as student recruitment tool.

Jason Hall asked if there is a plan or discussion by DESE about students that do not have computers or internet access. Daphne Robinson explained how Hawthorn has supplied students with chromebooks and, in some cases, hotspots.

In response to Edes Gilbert’s inquiry, Eric suggested that Hawthorn should make sure it is using social media effectively and appearing in internet searches.

Daphne Robinson then gave the Head of School’s report. She described Hawthorn’s Remote Learning. Teachers are using zoom to meet with students; they meet twice per week in blocks with the middle school students. They are using programs like Freckle, Google Classroom, and Khan Academy. The high school teachers are using Zot board for math as well as Google Classroom. The biggest challenge we are having is having students signing in consistently. Teacher as well as non-instructional staff are reaching out to each family twice every week. While working with students to be flexible, Hawthorn is still holding students accountable for work. The school uses the Remind app to communicate with parents, and is working on additional ways to stay in contact with all students. Since going to remote learning three weeks ago, the school has been in contact with every student to make sure they are okay and to support them during this time.

Ms. Robinson is monitoring statewide discussions around summer school and what the beginning of the next school year will look like.

The Board discussed retention and enrollment efforts, including Instagram and Facebook posts, Facebook ads, the Shirley Washington show on TV, radio ads, Zoom meetings with the Head of School and a virtual open house in May.

Regarding technology, computers have been picked up by more than half our students. The school received a grant from the Opportunity Trust to buy 15 hotspots and those have been assigned to families. We have also focused on onboarding all the teachers regarding remote learning tools. The school will need to spend some money in the future for online curriculum (Achievement First), computers and hotspots.

The school’s roof was repaired over spring break; HVAC system and security system maintenance have also been undertaken.

Lori Summer reviewed the Washington University charter renewal, including a review of Hawthorn’s academic performance, financial health and sustainability. Washington University will go before DESE for Hawthorn’s renewal on June 9.

Hawthorn's amended charter, which had been previously distributed to the board, was moved and seconded and unanimously approved.

Kathryn Love gave the Board Chair report.

At 6:45p.m., the Board 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
Sara Goellner - aye
Jason Hall -- aye
Angell Farley Jackson -- aye
Kathryn Love – aye
Alex Pearson - aye
Jessica Portis – aye
Mary Stillman – aye

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

Liz Buchman - aye
Mil Galvin - aye
Kathryn Love – aye
Alex Pearson - aye
Mary Stillman – aye

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.