

Board Meeting



Date: October 27th, 2022	Meeting Time: 6:31 PM	Location: Conference Room at Connections
Meeting called by	Sonia Kay	
Board Members Present	Valerie Silverman, Orlando Ortiz, Elinor Siklossy, Jay Huebner, Michael Kridel, Michelle Wolke, Amy Thompson, Dawn Donahue	
Board Members Absent	Nancy DiPierro, Steve Padula	
Notetaker	Sonia Kay, Nadine Fagan; Recorded by Zoom	
Other Attendees	Debra Johnson, Jason Portman, Nadine Fagan, Kenneth Kretschman, Melissa Carmen, Pam Ludwick	
Public/Board Comments		
	It's good to see everyone in person.	
Board Minutes		
Presenter: Michael Kridel	Discussion: Approval of Board Minutes September 30th, 2022	
Date of Minutes Reviewing:	September 30th, 2022	
Amendments made:	None	
Motion Made by:	Michael Kridel	
Motion Second by:	Valerie Silverman	
Discussion/Question:	None, Motion passed.	
Treasurer's Report		
Presenter: Jason Portman	Screen share of Budget Vs Actual, GASB, and other documents sent by email	
	Final Stages for Employee Retention credits, receiving \$300,000. Budget- Completed FTE; getting paid short one class at the moment; will be updated once FTE is processed. This is where our deficit is coming from currently. We're receiving an increase in referendum monies.	

Building	<p>The sale of the building to Building Hope has been completed. New lease is now in place.</p> <p>Meeting soon to update a timeline for construction projects- HVAC and Roof. Elevator repairs are \$13,000 to bring it to code; \$80,000 to modernize. Front security perimeter has become a priority. Parking lot improvements are also being considered.</p>
Principal's Report	
Presenter: Debi Johnson	Principal Report on Screen
	<p>-Dashboard covers details of the number of students, teachers, Covid status & funds raised to date.</p> <p>New Annual Report to share; Received compliments on the presentation. "We're All Connected" main marketing message.</p> <p>Staffing:</p> <p>-Job Openings; have 2 paraprofessional spots open</p> <p>-Employee Incentive for referrals; 3 staff have referred potential employees and have been hired</p> <p>Title I:</p> <p>-Annual Meeting held October 11th – Great Turnout</p> <p>-Parent and Staff training was held in October</p> <p>-Annual report for YSD Health and Wellness Grant submitted</p> <p>-Purchased additional playground equipment; Local women's group gave \$1,300 towards purchase.</p> <p>Events Coming Up</p> <p>-October 28th Trunk or Treat starts at 10 am-1 pm; will be having a cookout for staff and students courtesy of a student's parent.</p> <p>-November 12th Fall Festival</p> <p>-Ongoing Now Poinsettia Sale; November 28th will be receiving the plants for pickup</p> <p>-November 28th-December 9th Gingerbread Shop 9 am-2 pm</p>
Charter School Review	
Presenter: Melissa Carmen	Update on school progress
	<p>Strengths</p> <p>-IEP goal writing has improved, as well as progress on those goals</p> <p>-Unique Learning System, IXL, Teach Town, and other programs continue to be used. Teachers have come up with some creative lessons to connect with the use of these programs.</p>

	<p>-Our greatest achievement is our FSAA scores increased, our school rating went up from “Maintaining” to “Commendable” and we are the only charter school for students with autism that has achieved that standing.</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Overall teacher recruitment, Supporting/Mentoring New 1st year teachers, and parent/teacher relations. -Student independence skills / functional communication <p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Have current teachers meet the criteria to become Clinical Educators (currently have 6) who will mentor 1st-year teachers and have student teachers under them. -Independence station in every classroom -Building teacher/school therapist relations -Increase paraprofessional training -Increase in parent/teacher communications (Class Dojo and home notes)
<p>High School/Transition/Adult Program Review</p>	
<p>Presenter: Pam Ludwick</p>	<p>Update</p>
	<p>We’ve had some significant changes to our programs upstairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -4 Classrooms where students rotate to each room with a higher focus on independent living skills. Apartment Living with daily living skills, Health and Wellness going over food/skills related, Social Life Room focusing on leisure skills, and Fitness Room increasing activity level. -Added to our Report Cards and Progress reports are Nutrition and Fitness Reports to show foods students have tried and tracking the progress of activity levels and weight improvement. -There is a Full-time BCBA and SLP this year -Implemented tuition payment this year <p>Current:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Our adult program has 12 adults -Successful first audit by A.P.D. <p>Goals:</p> <p>Moving towards supporting our students becoming whatever level of independence that can be achieved for them. Creating connections with businesses for future hiring of our students and the training that goes in hand with those skills needed.</p> <p>A unique addition to refining our program upstairs is that we are now looking at our middle school students and really considering if the program</p>

	will be beneficial to them in the future, or if they can be mainstreamed to local schools and having those conversations early with the families.
Health and Wellness Review	
Presenter: Jason Portman for Katie Wentley	
	<p>Our new grant starts on October 1st.</p> <p>Outcomes of the previous grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Our outcomes met with 100% for all 3 goals. -Highlighted in local and national news several times -Asked to train lifeguards from Drowning Prevention Coalition -Asked to present at FAU-CARD PEPSA State Conference -Working with Special Olympics to become a Unified Champion School. Added programs- Young Athletes, Little Elites, Rising Stars, and Motor Activity Training. Working with Cardinal Newman to have students assist with our students.
Jason/Debi/Soni	Fundraising/Marketing Update
	<p>PGA National Philanthropy Arm will be assisting with a gardening project. More tours in November.</p> <p>Grants/Donations:</p> <p>Pending: Chik-Fil-A</p> <p>Impact of the Palm Beaches- Approved for the next step!!!</p> <p>Lost Tree- Approved for full proposal</p> <p>BallenIsles- Approved for full proposal</p> <p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -November 17th Overcomer Breakfast at PBKC 7:45 am; Connections is one of the charities benefiting from the event. -December 9th Shop and Share Lilly Pulitzer (Gardens Mall) 1:30-5:30 pm Percentage of sales to go to Connections -December 11th All in For Autism Poker Tournament at PBKC; time TBA -April 8th, 2023 Rooney's Walk/Run -Connections First Annual Fire Truck Pull – Date TBA
Jason	Facilities
	School Hardening -Funds received from grant for security were decreased. We're still going ahead with funds given to go towards adding more cameras.
Board Elections	

	Nominate the Slate- Soni K. for Chair, Michael K. for Treasurer, Elinor S. for Secretary, Orlando O. for Parent Representative	
Motion Made By	Jay Huebner	
Motion Seconded By	Michael Kridel	
Discussion/Question:	None.	
	Motion Passed- Unanimously	
Board Member Agreement		
	Tabled until next meeting.	
Bylaws Amendment		
	Having the option for online meetings added to bylaws	
	Tabled until next meeting.	
New Business		
	Michael Kridel- Review Director's and Officer's Insurance. Have a workshop on the bylaws within the next quarter.	
Advancement Committee		
Valerie Silverman		
	Stewardship calls need to be made to donors to touch base about the new annual report and thank them for previous giving.	
Motion for Adjournment	08:08 Pm	
Motion Made By:	Orlando Ortiz	
Motion Seconded By:	Jay Huebner	
Discussion/Question:	None. Motion passed.	
Calendar		
Next Board Meeting:	Virtual Meeting: November 18th th at 9:00 am	
Minutes Approved		
Board Member:	<i>Sonia F. Kay, Ph.D.</i>	Date: 11-18-2022