

Henderson Inclusion School
Governance Board Meeting
January 4, 2023

The Meeting was called to order by Principal Sibley at 6:05 PM

Attendance:

Stephanie Sibley (Head of School), Sheneal Parker (DOI Lower Campus)
Bethany Moffi (K0-1st parent rep)
Nicole Daly (Community Partner) * late, Eva Clarke (Community Partner)
Brett Nadan-Buresh (9-12th teacher rep), Mary O'Brien (2nd-5th teacher rep), Elisha McField (6-8th teacher rep), Kathleen Power (K0-1st teacher), Allison Mulkerins (K0-1st teacher)
Jordan Nguyen (12th grade student), Bamari Davis (11th grade student)

Not present: 9-12 Parent rep, Michelle Carmell (6-8 Parent rep), Vilma Silva (Community Partner)

Welcome & Introductions

Principal Sibley opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and inviting each person to introduce themselves and their role.

Approval of Minutes

Eva C. motioned to approve and Bethany M. seconded.

Officer Positions

Discussion was had around determining two co-chairs for the board. The board decided to postpone the chair discussion until the next meeting because two of the community partners were not present for discussion. A suggestion was made to do voting via email if a chair was needed more promptly than the next meeting. Bethany M. motioned to postpone the discussion and Mary O. seconded.

Approval/Review of Revised By-Laws

The board reviewed the [polished by-laws](#). Principal Sibley offered clarification of the by-law regarding "vote in contravention". Language was added that a move in contravention with a majority vote would only be done if the vote violated district, state, or federal regulations.

Bethany M. motioned to approve the by-laws *with the new language* about "vote in contravention". Mary O. seconded.

SPC Report

Bethany M. gave a short report about the most recent feedback from SPC. Parents are excited about the good faith agreements for different and more frequent communication from leadership. Michelle Pang has started work around fundraising. Clarification about SPC reps for governing board - only Bethany M. and Michelle C. are reps. Shamieh Wall is the SPC co-chair but not a governing board member.

Community Partner Report

Eva C. gave a short report about what the community partners have worked on since the last governing board meeting. They have looked more into fundraising and partnerships. Eva is eager to reach out to Urbanity Dance.

Head of School Report

Principal Sibley gave the Head of School report and outlined information about the updates from the previous meeting and the budget. In discussion of the school budget, she summarized decisions made and how they aligned with district priorities. ESSER funding and organizational restructuring for next year was briefly discussed. Principal Sibley would like to use the money as long term *investments* such as updating facilities, long term curricular materials, and STEM support. Administrative and student support will be reorganized and the 6th grade will be revamped to soften the transition between 5th and 6th grade. The slide deck that was used for the presentation can be found [here](#).

Principal Sibley highlighted a need for governing board focus on four main issues:

- 1) Lengthen the school day for the Upper Campus
- 2) Recruit families with multiple disabilities
- 3) Secure partnerships for the school
- 4) Individualized and personalized learning

Brainstorming and Small Group Session

During the sessions, small groups met in breakout rooms to discuss the four issues identified by Principal Sibley. A recap of the report out is given below:

- 1) Lengthen the school day for the Upper Campus
This would involve adding 20-30 minutes to the school hours to ensure the high school will be able to meet MassCore and DESE requirements. DESE requires secondary schools to provide 990 hours of structured learning time; currently the Henderson School does not meet this requirement. This is a time-sensitive issue and a plan will need to be brought to the district within the next several weeks. Parents stressed the importance of bringing this to the community to ensure unity among stakeholders.
- 2) Recruitment of families with multiple disabilities

Ideas that were brought up included board updates in emails sent out to parents, having translators come to board meetings, and running in-person open houses. The group wanted to know what type of families to focus on - ES, MS, and/or HS.

3) Securing partnerships for the school

The group talked about reaching out to Urbanity Dance. They discussed the need to increase visibility with existing partnerships (ex. City Sprouts). They also wanted to know what kind of partnerships we would be looking for - tutoring, service learning, etc. - in order to refine a search.

4) Individualizing and personalizing learning

A brief report was given that included the desire for curriculum just for students with special needs. Allison M. has some experience with good primary school materials.

Action Items for Next Meeting

Head of School report

Hiring update

Electing chair/co-chair

Scheduling and curriculum update

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