

Board of Directors of Wayside Schools
Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2018

John Troy called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Board members present: John Troy, Stacy Erb, Lillian Diaz Gray, Wyatt Harper, David Shelly, Matthew Childs

Staff present: Meghan Jones, Crystal Goolsby, Matt Abbott, Marcia Molinar, Kierstin Howard, Francisco Garcia, Carrie Sandlin, Hope Astor, Lauren Whitfield, Bardo Montelongo

Guests present: Kendra Monk, Representative from the Region XIII Service Center, and Jordan Elliott, Charter School Success representative

Public Comments: None

September 24, 2018 board meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Matthew Childs made the motion to approve the minutes. Wyatt Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Executive Officer Report

Matt Abbott provided a dashboard update. Wayside is still under-enrolled. All other dashboard areas are tracking where they should be this time of year. Accurate free and reduced lunch numbers will be available in November.

Meghan Jones provided a fundraising update. Wayside has raised \$483,000 so far, \$129,000 of which is currently in the bank. The prospect list has increased, and Matt Abbott and Meghan Jones are working to schedule meetings with the new prospects. Matt Abbott and Meghan Jones had a positive meeting with the Powell Foundation, at which the foundation expressed interest to continue funding Wayside, and they would also like to get other members of their family involved in other aspects of the Wayside community. Matt Abbott and Meghan Jones' current focus is to hold meetings with new and better prospects. As a result, the We Are Wayside Founders' Day event and the Active for Athletics campaign will no longer be held.

Matt Abbott requested that the board authorize Wayside to write a health and wellness policy to add to the Employee Handbook. This is a compliance item that was noted during Wayside's child nutrition audit. Matthew Childs made the motion to authorize Wayside to write the health and wellness policy for the Employee Handbook, to be in compliance with the child nutrition audit. David Shelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Matt Abbott then presented the board with a TEA amendment and resolution for review and approval. The resolution would move the intent to return, application, and lottery windows to the Fall. Wayside has traditionally done these in the Spring, which put us at a competitive disadvantage because other charter schools do theirs in the Fall. Matthew Childs made the motion to approve the amendment and resolution. David Shelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Superintendent's annual evaluation and possible action was tabled for Executive Session, as allowable by law.

Discussion and possible action on the Board Self-Evaluation was tabled for Executive Session, as allowable by law.

Chief Academic Officer Report

Marcia Molinar presented the October Academic Report. Fourth-grade math and reading scores went down, but that was because of shifts to more rigorous curricula in both areas. Marcia Molinar also noted the data reflect areas where the teachers need coaching, especially if they are new to Wayside. Hope Astor noted the Targeted Improvement Plans are designed to address the weak points in the FAD data. The schools are to hold weekly data meetings to discuss strategies to improve FAD scores, and each school has agreed to a set of non-negotiables that were set forth to improve lesson planning and thereby improve the data numbers.

Kendra Monk, a representative from the Region XIII Service Center, gave a presentation on Wayside's ratings in the new State Accountability Rating System. Schools are graded in three domains: student achievement, school progress, and closing the gaps. The state takes the "best of" grade from either student achievement or school progress, which is weighted 70%, and the other 30% of the grade comes from "closing the gaps." Wayside scored highest in "school progress." The "closing the gaps" domain scores Federal graduation status, English Language proficiency, and school quality. Wayside scored a "D" rating overall, and Wayside: Altamira Academy was graded "Improvement Required." As a result, Wayside qualified for Comprehensive Support from Region XIII at Wayside: Altamira Academy, which comes with funding to make necessary improvements, along with support to implement a TEA-required Targeted Improvement Plan, which focuses on key Academic areas that need improvement at the school. Wayside: Eden Park Academy and Wayside: REAL Learning Academy qualified for Targeted Improvement Support from Region XIII, based on their STAAR scores.

Hope Astor and Lauren Whitfield presented the Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) for Wayside: Altamira Academy, which they created in conjunction with Kendra Monk and members of the Wayside community and staff. They created problem statements based on weak data points and created goals to address the problem statements. The plan also has an activities timeline, with deadlines for when milestones in the plan need to be completed. Lauren Whitfield is receiving support from the Conscious Schools consultants to implement this plan. Dottie Hall, a contracted professional services provider, reviewed the TIP to ensure Wayside: Altamira Academy is addressing the right areas.

Hope Astor then presented the network-wide Targeted Improvement Plan, which was also designed in conjunction with Wayside community and staff members. The focus of this plan is to clarify some roles in relation to scholar performance, to ensure staff have the proper tools they need to foster improvement. The plan also includes a shift in one-on-one meetings to focus on growth, instead of reflection, and to review lesson plans and provide feedback.

Stacy Erb made the motion to approve the Wayside: Altamira Academy and Wayside network-wide Targeted Improvement Plans. David Shelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on Special Education services concerning specific students was tabled for Executive Session, as allowable by law.

Chief Operations Officer

Wyatt Harper, a Finance Committee member, provided an update on the statement of activities as of September 30, 2018 and presented Budget Amendment #1 in Deroald Hopkins' absence. Low enrollment is affecting revenue. The estimated amount of money raised has also been reduced to \$644,000 for 2018-19, based on where the amount raised currently stands, though John Troy noted Meghan Jones and Matt Abbott are still working to raise the original goal of \$1.6 million. The budget amendment does not reflect any changes to the operating plan, but it does reflect tightening up spending to break even instead of ending the year at a net loss, as is currently projected. The revised budget will not affect Wayside's FIRST rating, and Deroald Hopkins and the Finance Committee are working on tighter financial policies to include cut-off points for spending and debit card usage. Lillian Diaz Gray made the motion to approve budget amendment #1. Stacy Erb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carrie Sandlin, along with Jordan Elliott of Charter School Success, presented updated policy changes to the staff handbook for 2018-19. They include an official ADA policy and filing documents, which Wayside did not have; clarification on and official documents to determine FMLA eligibility; and a service animal policy and application form, a policy which previously existed only in the scholar handbook. Wyatt Harper made the motion to replace the existing FMLA section and add the ADA and service/emotional support animal sections to the staff handbook. Lillian Diaz Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and updates concerning specific personnel issues were tabled for Executive Session, as allowable by law.

At 8:18 PM, Wyatt Harper moved that the board exit open session and enter into Executive Session to discuss all items allowable by law. David Shelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:50 PM, Wyatt Harper motioned that the board exit Executive Session and enter open session. David Shelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

As a result of Executive Session deliberations, David Shelly moved to approve Matt Abbott's Superintendent contract and goals for the 18-19 school year and to publicly post these documents on the school website, as required by law. Wyatt Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:55 PM, Stacy Erb moved to adjourn the meeting. Lillian Diaz Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.