Board Members Present: David Dunn, Stacy Erb, Noah Wittman, Lillian Diaz-Gray, Glenda Ballard, Melinda Smith

Staff Members Present: Matt Abbott, Francisco Garcia, Halley Cade, Jessica Santos, Susan Pommerening, Marcia Molinar, Tammy Underwood, Shana Walker

Guests: Katie Herbek, Miranda Regalado

David Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Roll call to establish quorum, a quorum of board members are present and accounted for.

Public Comments: None

Meeting Minutes
Receive and approve Minutes from August 27, 2020 and revised minute from January 23, 2020

Noah Wittman moved to approve the minutes from August 27, 2020 and revised minutes from January 23, 2020 minutes, Glenda Ballard seconds, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items
a. Evaluation and Potential Appointment of New Board Member - Katie Herbek
b. Approval of Updated 20-21 Fiscal Procedures Manual
c. Approval TEA Attestestation/Resolution for third six weeks of Hold-Harmless funding
d. Approval of Updated Special Education Operational Board Policies for Compliance

Matt Abbott presented consent agenda items to the Board President for consideration.

Stacy Erb made a motion to pull the appointment of a new board member for the consent agenda for full discussion, Glenda Ballard seconded the motion, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

David Dunn asked for a motion to approve the remaining consent items

Glenda Ballard made a motion to approve remaining consent agenda items, Stacy Erb seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Katie Herbeck introduced herself and Stacy Erb presented why Katie would be a good fit for the Wayside Schools Board. Matt Abbott discussed his interview with Katie and her qualifications to serve on the board. David Dunn shared his knowledge of Katie and commends to the board that she has a passion for change and driving improved outcomes for students. Katie Herbeck shared about her view on school, focus on students and her time with the US Department of Education. She shared why she feels East and South Austin students deserve to be well served by schools.
Stacy Erb made a motion to approve Katie Herbek as a new Wayside Schools board member, Lillian Diaz-Gray seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously. Katie will join the board as a voting member starting at the regular November meeting.

Chief Executive Officer Update
a. Discussion and possible action on Updates to School Operations for SY 20-21 due to COVID-19, Reopening Plan, Waiver(s) and Resolution(s) for TEA

Matt Abbott presented Wayside is now in 3rd phase of reopening allowing any families to learn onsite. Currently we are less than 50% onsite. At this time Wayside has conducted two full COVID-19 responses, a positive test followed by contact tracing. He shared that as local context there is currently an uptick in cases in Travis county. In addition, CDC released a new definition of close contact, which is now a total of 15 minutes in a 24 hour period and this change will affect contact tracing and will likely mean that more staff and scholars may need to be quarantined as a result of a positive COVID case on campus. If necessary, TEA will allow up to a 5 day closure if COVID spread becomes an issue in the future.

David Dunn asked for an update on the first week return after fall break. Matt Abbott responded that the week is going well and physical distancing is utilized whenever possible and physical barriers are being used when 6 ft spacing can no longer be utilized for successful teaching in a classroom.

Hope Astor, EPA Principal, stated the phased return has been very successful and smooth. Families seem happy and teachers are enjoying being back in the classroom. 45-47% scholars are learning onsite at EPA and newly enrolled families are choosing onsite.

Matt Abbott shared the challenges around COVID-19, but expressed the pride he felt with the work of all the Wayside Staff.

David Dunn shared the board's deep appreciation for the work of Wayside Schools. There was no action taken on this agenda item.

b. Fundraising and Enrollment Update

Jessica Santos presented the current fundraising strategies. Over 80,000 raised to date and over $200,000 in grants currently being reviewed. Upcoming events include family sponsoring and teacher adoption fundraisers in the Fall semester around Thanksgiving.

Halley Cade presented an enrollment update reflecting a current enrollment of 1870. We are losing some and enrolling new scholars each week. Typically marketing efforts are quiet at this point in the year, but this year we are continuing a marketing campaign to attract new scholars. We are contracting again with Univision. 114 applications are currently in queue to enroll at Wayside. Retention is a focus of the enrollment. An “at-risk” list is being created to see flags that would make a scholar more likely to leave. Greater focus is being put on transitional grades, 5th-6th and 8th to 9th, as overall retention on transition was 63% from previous year.

Matt Abbott shared that most scholars leave due to transportation and housing issues. Also, enrollment in Pre-K continues to be the most challenging area of concern and where there is the greatest turnover in scholars.
David Dunn shared how the lack of PreK and Kinder enrollment is an issue across the state and we still are short of our funding goal to meet the budget. No action was taken on this item.

c. Wayside Strategic Planning Update
Stacy Erb led the discussion and commended Matt Abbott and staff for help and work in the process. The strategic plan created with the support of Mission Capital should be finalized in the next week and should be available for board review before the November meeting. This document will help support and leverage the mission and purpose of Wayside to serve families well. No action was taken on this item.

d. Discussion and possible action on Superintendent Performance Review
Tabled for the next board meeting, no action to be taken at this time.

Chief Academic Officer Update
a. Discussion and possible action on CCMR Board Goal Setting

Shana Walker presented the CCMR (College Career and Military Readiness) Board Goals that focuses on college and career readiness. House Bill 3 requires Wayside have a CCMR that shows students are college ready, enrolled in 2 or 4 year school, or career ready with certification, or military ready with enlistment. This is a 5 year plan that must be reviewed annually. The first review will be in February. The goal is to increase from 55%-60% readiness by 2024. This is a conservative goal that may grow over time. This plan will increase early application and enrollment for all Wayside scholars.

Glenda Ballard asked for clarification on the military aspect of the CCMR plan. Shana Walker responded and explained that both full time military and reserve are both options if a scholar chooses a military path. Wayside is still focused on college, but this path may be for scholars who do not feel financially ready for college. Wayside is excellent at scholar acceptance into college, but enrollment is an area where we can continue to improve. Our partnership with College Forward is one avenue that we have leveraged to help ensure scholars follow through with college education.

Tammy Underwood spoke to barriers of college and the military concern. Acceptance to college and college readiness are two different things. Areas of focus are improved SAT and ACT, and improved placement testing for college courses. She also shared barriers to college are numerous and include family, financial, and cultural concerns.

David Dunn asked for clarification on numbers around hispanic and economically disadvantaged students as only two groups with progress measures and why no other groups are listed. Shana Walker shared that, if a population is less than 25%, TEA does not allow reporting publicly for privacy concerns. David Dunn additionally asked why goal percentages are set where they are and not more aggressive. Matt Abbott answered that it is done to establish a baseline that will allow Wayside to reconsider goals in future years. Shana Walker also shared how conversative goals are a reflection of COVID-19 and will give room for further future growth.

David Dunn asked for a motion to approve the CCMR Board Goals.

Stacy Erb makes a motion to approve CCMR Goals, Noah Wittman seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.
b. October Academic Report on Reopening 20-21 Activities and further preparations

Susan Pommerening presented the progress and success of return, social distancing, and socializing at school. She shared that even the youngest learners are doing a good job with mask compliance. Teachers are instructing 1/2 of scholars in remote learning and the rest are onsite. The number of teachers on campus depends on what grade levels are onsite. Older scholars are on a 7 class period schedule with transitions. The remote scholars are following the same schedule as their peers. High school scholars must log on for a minimum of the first 10 minutes of each class to receive instruction and assignments. Middle school scholars have the option of asynchronous learning to comply with family needs. Assigned seating is one measure to ensure safety and seats are cleaned between class periods.

Two common assessments have occurred at this point in the year. The results are on par with the 19-20 school year, this is encouraging, as it shows the learning gaps expected from COVID-19 are less than anticipated and we are continuing to implement teaching methods to help scholars grow academically and be on grade level and college ready.

David Dunn asked about STAAR testing. Matt Abbott and Susan Pommerening answered that testing is still scheduled to occur at this time. Shana Walker added that there will be no retesting and all tests will be given in person for monitoring and test security purposes.

Stacy Erb asked if there are any measures that can be taken to show appreciation of educators doing outstanding work. Susan Pommerening said she will share this information with the board. No action was taken on this item.

c. Discussion and possible action on Special Education Services concerning specific student(s)

There is nothing to report at this time, no action to be taken.

Sr. Director of Operations Updates
a. Review Statement of Activities as of 9/30/2020

Francisco Garcia presented 25% of fiscal year has been completed and the budget is closely tracking as expected. Health services costs are up due to PPE and technology needed to help operate schools during COVID. The negative change in net asset is due to bond payment being booked in its entirety in August, but representing the 6 month prior savings in preparation for payment. This will happen again in February when the next payment is due. Expenses are continuing to be monitored, but there are no budget amendments to be presented at this time.

David Dunn stated the finance committee will not request any budget amendments at this time, but may be brought in the near future. He also noted that Wayside Schools is participating in the current hold-harmless program as we continue to be under-enrolled and have lower than usual attendance due to COVID. No Action was taken on this item.

b. Update on Emergency Operational Manual/Plan

Francisco Garcia reported on the emergency operational plans that are continually updated and safety drills are meeting compliance standards for fire, weather and lockdown drills. Training is provided through the Texas State Safety Center via webinars. In January the plan will be reassessed with the Board President and Superintendent. No action was taken on this item.
c. Update on PPP, Facility Debt Refinancing, and Bulk Technology Purchase
Francisco Garcia presented that PPP is still being reviewed. It was originally supposed to take 60 days to be reviewed by the SBA, but now it has moved to a 90 day review. Francisco will provide updates with the board when available. With reference to the Bulk Technology purchase, we received all 750 Chromebooks ordered through Region 4. Technology is currently at a 1:1 ratio and we are prepared for any possibility of future remote learning.

Francisco Garcia and Matt Abbott presented that Facility Debt Refinancing is being pursued, but no contracts or agreements have been made to refinance. If this were to happen, it would most likely be in the next 30 days and a special board meeting may need to be called.

Additionally David Dunn asked for an audit update. Francisco Garcia answered that the audit process is going well and should be able to present for board review and November deadlines. No action was taken on these items.

d. Discussion and possible action concerning specific personnel issues
No updates needed, no action to be taken.

Closed Session:
Board chose not to go into executive session at this time

Adjourn
Noah Wittman motioned to adjourn the meeting, Stacy Erb seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

David Dunn adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.