Wayside Board Meeting  
February 25, 2021  
ZOOM Meeting 826 8051 1968

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

Staff Members Present: Matt Abbott, Francisco Garcia, Halley Cade, Jessica Santos, Susan Pomererening, Marcia Molinar, Tammy Underwood, Lauren Whitfield, Kierstin Howard, Enrique Burmiester, Miranda Regalado, Vanessa Ruiz, Hope Astor, Maritza Gladyn

Guests: Lewis Wilks, Financial Advisor

David Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Roll called to establish quorum, a quorum of board members were present and accounted for.

Public Comments: Miranda Regalado, would like the board to consider calendar option 1. Year-round schooling has proven benefits for low-income scholars, gives lower instances of teacher and scholar burnout, and the built-in breaks result in fewer absences for both teachers and scholars. The lesser pay of charter school is offset by the frequent breaks and without them teachers may no longer feel incentivized to stay.

Meeting Minutes  
Receive and approve Minutes from January 28, 2021

Stacy Erb moved to approve the minutes from January 28, 2021, Lillian Diaz-Gray seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items
a. Resolution for Facilities Improvements needed as a result of the February weather crisis waiving certain procurement requirements as needed to expedite essential repairs

b. Resolution for continuity of pay for impacted employees caused as a result of the February weather crisis operational disruptions and closures

Glenda Ballard moved to approve the consent agenda, Melinda Smith seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Executive Officer Update
Matt Abbott asked for calendar to be moved to first item and board approved.

a. Discussion and possible action concerning the 21-22 Academic Calendar and Staff PD Waiver Days  
Matt Abbott presented the staff calendar recommendation as option 2 to use the summer for credit recovery, teacher retention and summer enrichment. There is consideration of returning to a year-round calendar for future academic years not affected by the pandemic. The school cabinet approved this calendar option.
Board discussed options of calendars and communication with families. Matt Abbott shared the current communication that has gone out to staff and families and the continued communication and support for staff and family responses. David Dunn brought up concerns of the public and asked for a response. Matt Abbott shared his personal perspective and his desire to keep all staff but understanding this calendar option may cause staff to leave.

David Dunn expressed concern as a school of choice Wayside is sensitive and responsive to families and staff. Additionally the pandemic has presented learning challenges and scholars deserve the opportunity to educational enrichment in summer programs.

David Dunn asked for a motion to approve the calendar 2 option.

Stacy Erb moved to approve the staff recommended calendar 2 option, Melinda Smith seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

David Dunn then asked that the agenda item concerning facility refinancing be moved up in the agenda.

Sr. Director of Operations Updates
a. Discussion and possible action on initiating Facility Debt Refinancing Option and Resolution
Louis Wilks, Wayside Schools Financial Advisor with US Capital Advisors presented that his agency would be looking at refinancing all Wayside Schools Facility Debt except for the 2012 Z bonds and $100,000 of 2012 bonds due to a grant on this debt that should be retained. Rates are changing but savings could be as large as $3.2 million dollars over the 22-24 year period, worth about 2.6 million dollars today due to the time value of money, all this without extending the debt. This is an 8.5% PV savings, double the traditional economically advantageous guidelines. Most savings will be in the next 5 years and then around $60,000 saving each year. The bonds will be priced for the April board meeting and a vote could be taken at the April School Board Meeting with closing around May 25th 2021. If the market is not favorable this could be delayed for the better opportunity and vote for approval at that time.

Lillian Gray moved to approve authorization to start due diligence process of facility debt refinancing, Stacy Erb seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed on 6-0 vote.

Chief Executive Officer Update Continued
a. Discussion and possible action on Updates to School Operations for SY 20-21 due to COVID-19 and Waiver(s) and Resolution(s) for TEA
Matt Abbott presented. Over 100 staff members received at least first round covid vaccinations, some have received 2nd vaccinations. There is less data for the last two weeks due to winter storms and results are unknown of positive or negative trends. No Resolutions or Waivers were brought forward for action on this item.

b. Discussion and possible action on School Operations for SY 20-21 due to February weather events including both Missed School Days and Other Waiver(s) and Resolution(s) for TEA
The board will need to vote on a resolution for remote learning Friday February 12th, school was closed February 15th-22nd, and remote on Tuesday February 23rd. Wayside offered all available support and resources for families during the winter storms. Board members have helped Wayside provide direct assistance to Wayside families in need. The damages at Eden Park will be an insurance claim, but unknown at this time if it will be a FEMA claim. Francisco Garcia will have a meeting with FEMA on Friday February 26th.
Katie Herbek moved to authorize filing TEA waivers for full closure and remote learning days, Melinda Smith seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed on 6-0 vote.

c. Discussion and possible action concerning changing the SY 21 School Calendar for March 26 to an Asynchronous Instructional Day due to February Weather Event and Waiver(s) and Resolution(s) for TEA This Item was removed from the agenda by the board president and no action of discussion was taken.

d. Fundraising and Enrollment Update
Jessica Santos presented a fundraising report and overview of the Spring Fundraising Event with sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorship packet will be sent out to board members to share with potential sponsors.

Halley Cade presented an enrollment update. The lottery was run this week and currently we have 290 spots to fill for next year. The area of growth is PreK and Kindergarten and marketing will be focused on this age group. Marketing will also continue efforts with Univision, we will have our first text campaign and work with an agency to help with marketing and fundraising efforts.

e. Discussion and possible action on Superintendent Performance Review (Actionable)
Tabled for Executive Session

Chief Academic Officer Update
a. February Academic Report and Action Plan
Commissioner of education shared remote scholars will not be required to take the STAAR test. Wayside is looking at how we can still continue to gather data on scholars. EOC will not be exempted. Keirstin Howard shared REAL’s effort to have scholars on campus for onsite learning and to get data.

b. Update on Teacher Incentive Allotment
Susan Pommerening presented that the process is going very well and work has been done on the teacher appraisal system. This is being shared with principals, academic committee, and teachers on the network committee. Board member and educational committee chair Melinda Smith praised the process and shared the excitement for this incentive allotment. Marica Molinar shared there are still difficult decisions to make but there is a lot of buy-in and involvement in the process and is building trust with teachers.

David Dunn asked for a time frame and need for approval. Susan Pommerening answered that it will be shared in March for approval.

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

Sr. Director of Operations Updates Continued
a. Review Statement of Activities as of 1/31/2021
As of January 58% of the fiscal year is complete and trending in the right direction. Budget is being monitored and future amendments may be presented. In terms of changes in net assets, we are waiting on expected funding from TEA that has not arrived, resulting in a current month loss.
David Dunn asked if TEA reimbursements are ensured, Fran Garcia answered that these payments are expected. Matt Abbott shared that additional federal COVID funding may come to public schools as well. David Dunn shared that hold harmless should be extended but it is unknown as to what level based on recent public reports.

b. Discussion and possible action on Financial Services Provider Selection and Contracting
The financial services provider Charter School Success contract is ending. Matt Abbott and Fran Garcia interviewed three candidates and would like to contract for one year with the option to renew for two years with CSS after conducting the proposals and review process of other providers.

Noah Wittman moved to authorize contracting with support of legal council for a one year renewal with Charter School Success with option of two year renewal there after, Katie Herbek seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed on 6-0 vote.

c. Other Financial Updates including but not limited to the PPP concerning school operations
Fran Garcia presents there are no updates on the PPP loan currently. SBA is currently still working on PPP loans under 2 million and Wayside had a 2.5 million PPP loan Information will be shared when available.

d. Discussion and possible action concerning specific personnel issues
Tabled for Executive Session

Closed Session:
David Dunn asked for motion
Stacy Erb moved to move into Executive Session, Lillian Diaz-Gray seconded, the motion passed on 6-0 vote.

Executive session entered at 7:53

David Dunn asked for a motion to exit executive session
Lillian Diaz-Gray moved to exit executive session, Glenda Ballard seconded, roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously

Adjourn
Katie Herbek motions to adjourn Melinda Smith seconded, roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously

David Dunn adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm.