Wayside Board Meeting
April 22, 2021
ZOOM Meeting ID: 826 8051 1968
Passcode: Wayside

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

Staff Members Present: Matt Abbott, Francisco Garcia, Jessica Santos, Susan Pommerening, Marcia Molinar, Kierstin Howard, Maritza Gladyn, Tammy Underwood, Miranda Regalado, Lauren Whitfield

Guests: Lewis Wilks, Jesus Becerra, Dylan Cosgrove, Clay Holland

David Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Roll called to establish a quorum, and a quorum of board members were present and accounted for.

Public Comments: Dylan Cosgrove Eden Park Academy Neighbor
Mr. Cosgrove feels there is a problem with Eden Park Academy allowing Soccer Shots to be run. Mr. Cosgrove feels it affects his quality of life, and would like it to be addressed and possibly stopped. He does not feel it was the right decision for Eden Park to allow them to come here during a pandemic.

Meeting Minutes
Receive and approve Minutes from March 25, 2021
Stacy Erb moved to approve the minutes from March 25, 2021 Katie Herbek seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items
a. Annual Board TEKS Certification for EMAT funding to purchase curriculum and technology
b. Authorization to engage McConnell Jones for FY21 Audit
c. Contracts requiring board action: including, but not limited to Harris (Jr3 Websmart Software - Finance and Student Systems), Literacy First Tutoring Services via the UT Dana Center, Grande Communications, and Conscious Schools Project (New Teacher Academy)
d. Authorize the Ending Remote Learning for Specific Campuses as needed to ensure required participation in EOY Assessments, with the limited exception of medically fragile scholars

Matt Abbott presented consent agenda items, item D was struck from the agenda.

Lillian Diaz-Gray moved to approve the consent agenda, Noah Wittman seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Executive Officer Update
a. Discussion and possible action on changes to School Operations for SY 20-21 due to COVID-19 including Waiver(s) and Resolution(s) for TEA
Matt Abbott presented, there are no current actions needed by TEA at this time. 85% of the staff has been vaccinated and Martiza Gladyn led the efforts to achieve this. There are some staff who are unwilling or unable to get vaccinated, help is being offered to anyone who would like to be vaccinated. The city of Austin has a surplus of vaccines and 16+ can be vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine. Positivity rates have
drastically declined. We are pushing hard to get scholars back onsite. Only the most medically fragile scholars may be offered remote education next year, but no legislation has been passed.

b. Fundraising and Enrollment Update
Jessica Santos presented the Fundraising Update. The Gala has secured Signature Sponsor, Awarding Sponsor, Lounge Sponsor, and several table sponsorship. Marketing efforts are through email, Facebook posts and a Facebook event. There have also been posts with the Austin Young Chamber and the GiveButter site. Nominees are also asked to share with their network and teachers and staff being encouraged to attend as well.

Matt Abbott presented the current enrollment report. Many applicants are applying, but the final forms are preventing them from full enrollment to count for numbers. There will be a heavy July push. There is a concern for target enrollments for next year. Canvassing and phone banks will begin next week. The summer will be very busy. PK-4 will be allowed to be enrolled in May per TEA guidelines.

C. Discussion and possible action on school board applicant Jesus Becerra
David Dunn presented Jesus Becerra as a possible new school board member. Jesus is a VP at Frontier Bank, a member of the GAHCC and an Austin native. Matt Abbott shared he has passed background check and eligibility requirements to become a board member. If voted as a board member, he would not have voting privileges until the next board meeting.

Jesus spoke of his passion for educating children in East and Southeast Austin and the need for leadership and representation within the community.

Lillian Diaz-Gray moved to accept Jesus Becerra as a new board member, Katie Herbek seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion and possible action on Superintendent Performance Review
Nothing to present at Executive Session at this time

Chief Academic Officer Update
a. March Academic Report and Action Plan
Susan Pommerening presented the summer enrichment plan for credit recovery, ELL programs, and jump start for young scholars. The Middle and High school scholars that “need credit recovery” will attend a three week June enrichment.

Overall, scholars are trending in a positive direction in testing with only rare exceptions, such as the AMA 5th grade math teacher who left. The Middle school is having a re-do of testing and then will be presenting data. The effort and skill seen is commendable, and while there is still work to be done, we are very proud of staff and scholars.

There will be 28 positions to fill for 2021-2022, but there are promotions and marketing efforts to fill these spots. Lauren Whitfield will move to be Senior Director of Elementary Schools.

b. Discussion and possible action on Special Education Services concerning specific student(s)
Nothing to present at Executive Session at this time
Sr. Director of Operations Update

a. Review Statement of Activities as of 3/31/2021
Right now we have spent about 75% of the budget and are targeting to end at a positive net balance. The net assets have moved to the positive due to relief funds from the State and Federal Funds. The goal is to present as few amendments as possible, but there may be future amendments in areas of opportunity.

b. Discussion and possible action on a RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WAYSIDE SCHOOLS AUTHORIZING A BOND FINANCING TO REFINANCE OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS, DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO TAKE ACTIONS AND EXECUTE AND DELIVER DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF THE BONDS; AND CONTAINING OTHER RELATED MATTERS
Lewis Wilks of US Capital Advisors and Clay Holland, bond counsel with Hunton Andrews Kurth presented. Tonight there will be a vote for an approval of a parameter bond sale which would authorize Wayside Leadership and the president and secretary of the board to move forward with the bond financing of our 2012 and 2016 bond deals series. The bonds are scheduled to be priced May 4th and close on June 3rd. This is a re-funding of existing bonds to save money and the parameter sale will only go forward if the parameters of the sale meet the economic efficiency test stated in the resolution presented. Page 1 of this document outlines where the sources of funds are coming from the new bonds and then and then how much is going to pay for the refunding. Wayside can call these bonds 90 days prior to that by federal tax laws. The last page in this document, which is Page 18, shows an aggregate debt service for the school going forward once this transaction is completed and the debt service schedule.

David Dunn and Matt Abbott opened to the board conversation and discussion of the current market and the expenses that are calculated in the refinancing. The vote tonight is to move forward in the process of pricing bonds. This refunding as presented does cause additional long term debt, but should result in a net cost savings for Wayside Schools of at least $2 Million over the term of the bonds if the parameters are met at pricing. If the parameters are not met on May 4th, the sale will be postponed until there are better market conditions.

Katie Herbek moved to approve the resolution for the parameter sale to move forward with the bond refunding process, Stacy Erb seconded the motion, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Review of Preliminary FY22 Budget
Matt Abbott shared this is being presented with lean data as the legislative session is currently taking place.

Fran Garcia presented the very preliminary budget of $21.5 million for the 21-22 school year. Legislative session is currently in process and legislation passed before the end of session will also result in budget changes. The preliminary budget also does not show changes that the refinancing would make, ESSER Funds or potential PPP forgiveness.

d. Discussion and possible action on FY22 Teacher Pay Scale
Fran Garcia presented maintaining the current pay scale for the 21-22 school year due to uncertain conditions concerning enrollment and legislative session. There may be future opportunities to increase the scale with additional federal funds. David Dunn and Noah Wittman both expressed the desire to amend the salary schedule if and when possible in the future.
Noah Wittman motioned to maintain the current pay scale for the 21-22 school year, Stacy Erb seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

d. Financial Updates including but not limited to the PPP
Fran Garcia presented the bank still has no updates on the PPP loan. We hope to hear an answer this fiscal year.

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

Closed Session:
David Dunn asked for a motion to exit public session and enter into Executive Session

Lillian Diaz-Gray motioned to exit public session and enter into Executive Session and seconded by Katie Herbek, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Lillian Diaz-Gray motioned to exit executive session and enter into Public Session. Melinda Smith seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive session ended at 8:38 pm

Adjourn
David Dunn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Stacy Erb motioned to adjourn. Melinda Smith seconded, roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously

David Dunn adjourned the meeting at 8:39 pm.