

Attendance:

Board: David Schlakman, Kevin Knight, Claire Foerster, Mary Humphries, David Hunter, Christine King, Paul Myerson, Lisa Callahan (via phone)

Staff: Ronelle Swagerty, Agnieszka Compare, Lauren Seymour, Quentin Ball, Ajumoke Nathan, James Page, Katherine Habansky, Shari Ginyard, Xiomara Martinez.

Meeting called to order at 4:15 pm by David Schlakman, President of the board.

Opening comments: None

Public comments: None

Action Items:

1. Motion to adopt the consent agenda format:
Moved by David Hunter; seconded by Claire Foerster. Unanimous
2. Motion to approve October's board meeting minutes:
Moved by Christine King; seconded by Paul Myerson. Unanimous (Kevin Knight abstained).
3. Motion to proceed with library subdivision project not to exceed \$18,000:
Moved by David Hunter; seconded by Christine King. Unanimous
4. Motion to proceed with feasibility study, not to exceed \$30,000:
Moved by David Hunter; seconded by Mary Humphries. Unanimous

Discussion Items:

1. Feasibility Study

Quentin Ball discussed the need for the board to approve proceeding with a feasibility study. Paul Myerson questioned what areas the feasibility study would cover. Quentin Ball informed the group that we would engage a consultant to assist us with the process and to (1) identify community supporters and detractors, (2) assess our internal capacity for growth, (3) feel out the political and environmental landscape and (4) address the architectural needs of the expansion. The group discussed.

2. Transforming NBFA: What is it going to take to become a high performing social emotional learning ("SEL") school?

Ronelle Swagerty led the discussion on what it would take to transform NBFA into a SEL school as opposed to simply employing some SEL strategies.

- a) Reducing classroom size to 18 students per class
- b) Replacing the Paraprofessionals with Special Education Teachers
- c) Starting a “baby” McCoy room for K-2 students.
- d) Hiring an additional Social Worker
- e) Training staff in and implementing Emotionally Responsive Practices, using reflective techniques
- f) Improving the mentor program

Ronelle Swagerty explained that we will train all PreK-2 staff first. Our goal is to have only one climate specialist and add more quality mentors. We will match mentors with students starting from the youngest to the oldest grades.

Agnieszka Compare shared that she met with the K-2 teachers to come up with ways to help with aggressive behaviors. Some of the solutions the group thought of included teachers spending more quality time with the students, incorporating mentors, and holding group sessions (such as Lunch Bunches, Girls Group, Boys Group).

Christine King questioned what the plan was for the older grades, citing that there is a lot of focus on grades PreK-2. Ronelle Swagerty offered that the grade 3-8 teams will be trained as well on these practices during Professional Development. The goal is to work intensely from the younger grades upwards. Discussion ensued.

3. Union Negotiations

David Schlakman informed the Board that the process of negotiating our contract with the teachers union for 2016-2018 has begun. David Hunter asked for clarity on who is involved in the negotiations. The group discussed a new protocol for a transparent process. The process will be developed for our next negotiations in two years. In the meantime, David Schlakman solicited expressions of interest in joining the negotiating team. David Hunter and Claire Foerster replied affirmatively and will join David Schlakman and our labor attorneys in the negotiating process.

4. Board Self-Assessment

All Board members have completed the self-assessment survey. The ad hoc group will compile the data and report on the results for the Board meeting in February.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm by David Schlakman.

Xiomara Martinez, Recording Secretary