

Enlighten Academy Charter School Board Meeting

June 7, 2022

The Board meeting of Enlighten Academy Charter School was called to order by Chair Anne Weyandt at 6:09pm. The meeting was held via ZOOM due to COVID19 CDC guidelines for social distancing.

Board members present via Zoom were Anne Weyandt (Chair), Amy Ray (Secretary), John Cacich (Treasurer), Mary Tacheny (member at large), Kate Morrow (Member at Large and Juli Baecker (Member at Large).

Board Members absent Jim Bernstein (Vice Chair), Carlos Gantchoff (Member at Large) and Kathy Thao (Member at Large).

Visitors: Mary Weyandt (Volunteer Start Up Coordinator), Linda Baer (Grace Lutheran), Pastor Karen, Adam (NEO), and Luli Axhijaj (NEO)

Enlighten Academy Charter School Mission Statement: Enlighten Academy Charter School's mission celebrates each student. We personalize learning for the whole child using evidence-based curriculum designed for learners to advance at their own pace. We are committed to a deeper learning that purposefully embodies our core values, led by innovative and empowered professional teachers.

Enlighten Academy Charter School Vision Statement: The Enlighten Academy Charter School vision is to be a vibrant, values-based PreK-Grade 5 learning community on the East Side of Saint Paul, welcoming students and families from richly diverse cultures and backgrounds.

- 1) Call to Order /Mission/Vision/Roll call
 - a) Kate read Mission and Vision Statements
 - b) Board Chair Weyandt called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm
 - i) Roll Call: Amy, John, Juli, Mary T, Kate and Anne
 - ii) Absent: Jim, Kathy, and Carlos
- 2) Conflict of Interest Disclosure – Anne
 - a) None
- 3) Review/Approve of Board Minutes from April 26, 2022
 - a) Moved by Mary and Second by Kate
 - i) Discussion: None
 - ii) Approved agenda unanimously
- 4) Review/Approve of May Agenda
 - a) Moved by Juli Second by John
 - i) Discussion: Hope to get to the training tonight, but if conversation goes too long, will postpone. Would like to address 7.1 and 7.4 right away
 - ii) Vote: Unanimously approved with changes
- 5) Partial Finance and Facilities
 - a) 7.1 Grace Lutheran Zoning update

- i) Felt some hesitation from Grace Lutheran on making the necessary investments for the school.
- ii) Met in May about enrollment and the necessary changes.
- iii) Received an email today to officially terminate lease and allots 3 weeks to get all things moved out
- iv) Shawn felt that it was important to let the Board discuss this information without her.
- v) Now, need to find a new location for Fall 2022.
 - (1) Kevin Peck is a realtor that NEO connected us with who is helping with this.
 - (2) Michelle McGuire with NEO has strength with real-estate as well as in finding storage space for our things.
 - (3) We have a connection with Don Tech for support on storage.
 - (4) NEO has been very supportive and helpful in continuing to move forward.
 - (5) Possibly look into a one-year delay to open with this new information.
- vi) Discussion:
 - (1) Anne: Would prefer to move forward and only stop when someone from MDE or NEO tells us to stop.
 - (2) Mary W: noted that this is not unusual for charter schools. That being said, due to relationship with MDE and access to our funds, likely part of the current situation. So likely to support a one-year delay if needed. Meeting with Darrin Courtly with MDE, this is affecting several locations.
 - (3) Kate: Follow up on our plan from April for a 2-prong path. Was noted that indeed, movement to secure a new location started right after the last meeting. But so far, have not found a proper location for us.
 - (4) Anne: We have reached out to our benefactors, Bob Kessler and Jim Hanson, for help in the community to find a location.
 - (5) Juli: Talk with Shawn Reagan at Premier Bank, connection through Jim Hanson. Looking at the lease, we should have 30 days to vacate, not 24. John noted that the lease is not in effect due to the pause, only have our side agreement. Do we have a final walk through with a checklist? Mary noted that they will be taking pictures. Disappointed about the short notice.
 - (6) Mary T: seems as though we are not welcome and we should vacate as soon as possible and do it with the values and mission of the school in mind. We have learned some good lessons with this
- b) 7.4 CSP Grant – Implication/submission; worked with NEO
 - i) Based on the number of students, we would be applying for \$75,000 grant
 - (1) Need to create budget that fits that number
 - (2) Will be available once the Authorizer states we are ready to open.
 - (3) Funds from last year also become available at that time.
 - ii) Working with TAG and NEO to ensure funding

- iii) The work to get bills paid with MDE from last year is helping not just us but all charter schools.
- iv) Discussion:
 - (1) Anne maintains committed to moving forward until told to stop
 - (2) Juli: from a Mktg and Outreach standpoint, Location, location, location. It is what all parents have clung onto.
 - (3) Mary T: Stands with Ane
 - (4) Kate: keep on moving, thinks that is what Mike would want.
 - (5) John: Keep moving looking for an alternative location and open communication with NEO if we need to push opening year out another year.
 - (6) Amy: v. cautiously optimistic. Not a lot of energy left to keep going another year.

6) Chair's Report

- a) 5.1 Remembering Board Member Mike Byron
 - i) All shared memories and feeling after the sudden passing of Mike.
- b) 5.2 Lead Teacher/Start Up Coordinator Report Mary Weyandt
 - i) 5.2.1 School Calendar
 - (1) Mirrors SPPS 2022-2023 school calendar
 - (2) Bring to the board to approve '22-'23 school calendar with school day of 8:30-2:30
 - (3) Moved to approve by Mary T and second by John
 - (4) Discussion: Kate offered some thoughts around winter break and wondering if really need a full week in April for a spring break. Mary W noted that this is what most families in St. Paul have asked for through the district.
 - (5) Vote: Unanimously Approved
- c) 5.3 Policy Approvals Anne Weyandt
 - i) Reminder that we approve an initial policy, but it can always be altered later.
 - ii) 5.3.1 Student Dress Code
 - (1) Motion: Juli Second by Amy
 - (2) Discussion: None
 - (3) Vote Unanimous
 - iii) 5.3.2 Data Practices Policy
 - (1) Motion: Juli Second by Amy
 - (2) Discussion: None
 - (3) Vote Unanimous
 - iv) 5.3.3 Religious Accommodation Policy
 - (1) Motion: Juli Second by Amy
 - (2) Discussion: None
 - (3) Vote Unanimous
- d) 5.4 Board Calendar for 2022-2023
 - i) Continue on Zoom until we find a new location
 - ii) Motion: Juli Second by Amy

- iii) Discussion: None
 - iv) Vote Unanimous
- 7) Marketing and Outreach Report Juli Becker
 - a) Keeping an outreach focus
 - b) Continue building relationships
- 8) Finance and Facilities Committee Report John Cacich
 - a) 7.1 Grace Lutheran zoning update (discussed that the beginning)
 - b) 7.2 '22-'23 Budget
 - i) Some changes at TAG resulting in more fully committed and engaged with helping us which has been helpful.
 - ii) Revised our Frist Year Budget, lots of time spent with TAG to ensure accurate and will review prior to next meeting.
 - c) 7.3 Food Service and Transportation Update
 - i) Continuing to follow up with previous contracts
 - d) 7.4 CSP Grant (discussed at the beginning)
- 9) Treasurer's Report: John Cacich
 - a) 7.1 Monthly financial report: Nothing new to update
- 10) Public Comments
 - a) Luli and Adam: Thank you for hard work. Great teamwork and reach out if we need anything.
 - b) Karen: Acknowledge a lot of effort and work by both parties. The sign had been left after the Open House and it was wet and crumpled on the ground when a it was gathered it up and brought it inside. There is no animosity on their side. Communication was sent via email so we would have information prior to this meeting. A certified letter is on its way. Suggested looking into the vacant dialysis building next door.
 - c) Linda: It has been a journey. Agreed that there is no animosity and wishes us all the best as they are still committed to the idea of the school.
- 11) Adjourn
 - a) Moved by Mary Second by Amy
 - b) Vote: Unanimous
 - c) Adjourned at 7: 59 pm

APPROVED 6/28/22