



Regular Meeting & Working Session of the Board of Directors of Citizens of the World Kansas City

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Online Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82794342191>

Passcode: gDSV3J

(253) 205-0468 | 126632

Date: Thursday, February 15th, 2024, 6:00pm

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

Ms. Finocchario called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Ms. Finocchario welcomed the members of the public in attendance and gave an overview of the meeting order.

2. Roll Call by Board Chair

Ms. Finocchario called roll as follows:

Present (all via video):

Hon. Ardie Bland

Mrs. Lydia Butler

Mrs. Angela DeWilde

Ms. Brandi Finocchario

Dr. Asia Foster

Dr. Sarah Hicks

Mr. Jim MacDonald (6:06 pm)

Ms. Selina Rios

Absent:

Mr. Roosevelt Lyons

Ms. Finocchario determined that with 7 of 9 (later 8 of 9) Board Members present, a quorum is established for purposes of holding the meeting and voting.

3. Review & Consideration of Proposed Agenda *[Board Action]*

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY Pursuant to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in a meeting or function of the Citizens of the World Kansas City Board may request assistance by contacting Dr. Danielle Miles at Danielle.Miles@cwckansascity.org, or by phone at (816) 499-8000.

The Board did not have any comments regarding the proposed agenda.

Dr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda as presented and Ms. Rios provided a second to the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

4. Public Comments

Ms. Finocchario introduced herself, thanked the public, and provided an overview of the public comment process and guidelines. Ms. Finocchario then invited public comment; no public comment was made.

Mr. MacDonald arrived at 6:06pm.

5. Consent Agenda *[Board Action]*

- a. Review & Consideration of minutes from the January 18th, 2024 regular meeting of the Board
- b. School Dashboard
- c. Strategic Plan Dashboard
- d. Board & Committee Calendar
- e. Staffing Report
- f. Events Calendar
- g. Annual Board Acknowledgement of MCPSC's Revocation & Closure Policy
- h. Review & Consideration of Appointing Ms. Jessica Cox as the 2023-2024 Foster Care Coordinator

Ms. Finocchario presented the Consent Agenda and asked the Board if any member wanted to remove any item from the Consent Agenda in order to further discuss and/or solely vote on that item; no member did.

Mrs. Butler moved to approve the Consent Agenda as proposed and Ms. Rios provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

6. Board Committee Business & Reports

- a. **Facilities Committee** (Dr. Danielle Miles) *[Information/Discussion]*

Dr. Miles shared that the Committee does not have a report to share this month.

- b. **Finance & Operations Committee** (Mrs. Lydia Butler)

- i. Review & Consideration of Monthly Financials (January 2024), including Check Register *[Board Action]*

Mrs. Butler presented the January Financial Report and highlighted page 7's Balance Sheet, showing a current Cash Balance just under \$1.8m, with a projected year-end balance of just under \$2.6m.

She shared Page 8's Income Statement, highlighting:

- Year-to-date revenue of \$4.0m, against a budget of \$4.0m.
- Year-to-date expenses of \$4.0m, against a budget of \$3.9m.
- Net Income of (-\$11k), against a budget of \$160k.
- Forecasted year-end revenue of \$7.7m, against a budget of \$7.5m.
- Forecasted year-end expenses of \$6.8m, against a budget of \$6.7m.
- Forecasted year-end Net Income of \$830k against a budget of \$795k.
- A projected 141 days of cash on hand position, an increase of four days from last month.

Mrs. Butler detailed that the improvement in the revenue perspective is due to increases in Medicaid reimbursements and Title fund allocations as well as a higher-than-budgeted WADA calculation. On the expense front, Dr. Miles, Mr. Brennan, and Ms. Berry completed a review of YTD expenses and used that data for a major year-end forecast update. The rebalancing does reflect an overall increase in total expenses, but they are being more than offset by the aforementioned revenue increases. One of the identified challenges was the impact of restricted grants. The budget originally called for \$400k of revenue in grants/donations, which was allotted to cover existing expenses in the FY24 budget. However, the school has instead received several restricted grants which were tied to non-budgeted, new expenses; as a result, budget costs have increased from an expense perspective. The overall impact has been minimized because some expense dollars freed up and the school is ahead of revenue budget, however, Mrs. Butler felt it was important to note as the school begins planning for the FY25 budget.

Mrs. Butler also specifically noted the school's cash reserve is intentionally being built up to cover next fiscal year's planned deficit spending.

Lastly, she stated that the Finance Committee did not note anything as out of order on the Check Register or Accounts Payable.

Dr. Hicks moved to approve the January Financial Report and Check Register as proposed and Mr. MacDonald provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

c. Executive Committee (Ms. Brandi Finocchario)

i. Update and Review of Executive Director Evaluation Timeline *[Information/Discussion]*

Dr. Hicks updated the Board that she and the Committee will use the same evaluation process as last year (self-assessment, stakeholder survey with staff/students/parents/board, collate that info in May, report it in June, with a wrap-up conversation in June/July). Dr. Hicks is in process of updating the documents and will have that to the Board on/before next Board meeting.

ii. Review & Consideration of Employee PTO Buyback Policy *[Board Action]*

Dr. Miles stated that, in the school policies, it says the Board will review the Employee PTO Buyback policy each year. Last year, the school offered a buyback of up to 4 days, in 8-hour increments, at \$100/day. She proposed changing to increment to 4-hours and increasing the rate to \$150/day.

Dr. Hicks moved to approve the Employee Referral Policy as updated and Dr. Foster provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

- d. **Brand Identity Committee** (Ms. Angela DeWilde) *(Board Action)*
- i. Review of National License & Affiliation Agreement

Mrs. DeWilde reminded the Board that the Brand Identity Committee was established to review the license and affiliation agreement the school has with the national Citizens of the World Charter Schools organization. The Committee has explored the specifics of the agreement and recommends renegotiating the agreement at the end of its term. She will recommend a board action which is a procedural necessity to begin the negotiation process.

Mrs. DeWilde read the following statement:

It's been eight years since CWCKC welcomed our first families. The support that CWCKC has received from our national organization, "Citizens of the World Charter Schools" has been essential in building a stable foundation so our school can deliver a quality educational experience to our students. However, the cost of the support of CWC National is substantial. As a Board, we have an obligation to take a thorough look at our overall operations, costs, and how we serve our school community. One component of this is to review the Agreement between CWCKC and our national organization. This Agreement is formally titled the "Second Amended and Restated License and Affiliation Agreement".

Through the Agreement, the annual fee required by CWC National is 5% of CWCKC's state revenue, which now represents over \$250,000 every year. The Board and members of the leadership staff are concerned that this annual fee and the associated support provided by CWC National does not result in meaningful change for CWCKC students commensurate with the overall cost.

To enable CWCKC to address these concerns with CWC National, the Agreement sets forth a process to follow. The first step is for at least 67% of board members to affirmatively vote to send a document called a "Nonrenewal Notice" to CWC National. The Nonrenewal Notice would be to notify CWC National of CWCKC's intent not to renew the Agreement when it expires according to its terms, which would be on June 30, 2026.

Once the "Nonrenewal Notice" is sent, a period of good faith negotiations between CWCKC and CWC National will begin. The good faith negotiation period will last a minimum of 30 days and will allow us to review, among other things, the Board's concerns, the services received from CWC National, and the fees outlined in the Agreement.

In a moment I will recommend that we make a motion to send the "Nonrenewal Notice." As outlined, this board vote is a procedural necessity to begin the process of good faith negotiation between CWCKC and CWC National. The motion will include the adoption of a resolution. I would first like to share that resolution with you all before making a motion.

Mrs. DeWilde then shared and read a Resolution related to sending a Nonrenewal Notice to CWC National and authorizing Dr. Miles and legal counsel to negotiate in good faith.

Hon. Bland moved to adopt the Resolution as presented and Mr. MacDonald provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved via roll call, as follows:

Hon. Ardie Bland	Aye
Mrs. Lydia Butler	Aye
Mrs. Angela DeWilde	Aye
Ms. Brandi Finocchiaro	Aye
Dr. Asia Foster	Aye
Dr. Sarah Hicks	Aye
Mr. Jim McDonald	Aye
Ms. Selina Rios	Aye

Mrs. DeWilde stated that, per the terms of the License and Affiliation Agreement, more than 67% of the members currently in office affirmed the vote, the motion passes. The school will thus send the Nonrenewal Notice to CWCS and enter into at least 30 days' good faith negotiations.

- e. **Educational Equity Committee** (Ms. Selina Rios) *[Information/Discussion]*
- i. Update on Academic Vision

Dr. Hicks shared that the school is developing both an ELA Academic Vision as well as a Math Academic Vision. The Math aspect is a bit higher priority and is further developed, with a full Instruction Team (Dr. Hicks, Dr. Miles, Citizens teachers and instructional specialist) formed and meeting. The end-of-year goal is to have visions in both areas set in order to direct human and financial capital (curriculum, etc.) needed to accomplish them. She will share them when final, estimated by May.

7. Executive Director's Report (Dr. Danielle Miles) *[Information/Discussion]*

Dr. Miles reported there is a Meet-and-Greet with the Blaque KC charter school board draft on February 22; she and Hon. Bland will attend.

She also confirmed the draft is the first Saturday in April; she invited the Board and asked for volunteers.

- i. Student Support Presentation (Ms. Johanna Chambers)

Mrs. Chambers introduced the Student Support Team, including Mrs. Barron and Mr. Wahab (Counselors; both returning), Ms. Cox (Social Worker), Ms. Mortensen (Behavior Coach), and Ms. Turner (School Nurse; new this year).

She gave an overview of the supports she and her team provide, starting with Tier 1 Social & Emotional in-classroom work such as:

- Signs of Suicide (5th-8th Grade)

- MOCSA – Missouri Association to Counter Sexual Assault (5th-8th Grade)
- Second Steps – Social/Emotional Learning
- Connection Circles – structured time for students/teachers to share thoughts/feelings and practice mindfulness. Focused on Middle School.

Ms. Chambers also shared the Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports that her team provides, including:

- Social Skills – primarily led by Ms. Mortensen and is currently 13 different groups across all grade levels.
- Teach & Protect Room – led by Ms. Mortensen and functions as a calm-down space, and a safe check-in/out to start/end day for many students. It is a balance between structure and safety, but not a place that students want to spend the entire day.
- Restorative Circles & Mediations – the Student Support team is growing in this area in setting up these school-wide structures.

Nurse Turner also oversees and manages:

- Vaccination compliance
- Medication administration
- Student chronic health needs
- Dental, Hearing, and Vision screenings
- Links families to medical resources and/or referrals to student support.

Ms. Chambers also shared that she works with many community partners to bring in additional supports for the Citizens community, including:

- Operation Breakthrough (39 students):
 - School-aged partnership
 - 1:1 Therapy onsite at CWCKC
 - Monthly collaboration meetings
- SchoolSmart KC Cohort:
 - McKinney Vento School Cooperative
 - School Pantry Cohort
 - Mental Health System of Care
- Harvesters:
 - School Pantry Cohort (SSKC gives \$2k a year for this)
 - BackSnacks
- Impact MO:
 - Brings community agencies and services from around the city into one place so families can easily access and apply for resources.
 - Ms. Cox is a “coach” and accompanies families to monthly events.
- TherapyLog:
 - Provides RN supervision to our school nurse
 - Consults with Ms. Chambers, keeps her updated on state laws and policies.

Lastly, Ms. Chambers provided a culture implementation update, stating that staff are regularly participating in Conscious Discipline rituals at staff meetings and on professional development days, and Middle Schoolers participate in connection circles every Friday. Seven staff members attended in-depth Conscious Discipline training in Summer 2023 with plans for additional staff to attend in Summer 2024. The Center for Conflict Resolution is also beginning a partnership including foundational trainings for new staff and “Discipline that Restores” for building leadership.

Dr. Foster reacted and gave kudos to Ms. Chambers and her team; Ms. Rios especially agreed.

ii. 2024-2025 Enrollment Update (Mrs. Katy Lineberry)

Mrs. Lineberry reported that re-enrollment is currently ongoing, with current students having guaranteed seats through February 29th. The school is currently at ~55% (192/350) re-enrolled students, which is outpacing last year. New student offers will be sent through the lottery in early March and the school will continue to take re-enrollments until seats are full.

She shared a breakdown of new student applications, showing a total of 152 received to date. That total is lower than usual, but Mrs. Lineberry noted that our new Pre-K partnership does not accept 3 year-olds, so that is skewing the Pre-K results lower. Kindergarten is also a bit low, but it is matching enrollment trends across Kansas City and the nation. Other grades are higher than usual, especially middle school.

8. [Estimated 7:00pm] Closed Session: Board Working Session with Missouri Charter Public School Commission

Pursuant to § 610.021(13) RSMo, the Board will enter into closed session to discuss matters related to (13) Individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings, or records pertaining to employees.

a. Roll Call Vote to Enter *[Board Action]*

Ms. Finocchario invited Mrs. Martha McGeehon (MCPSC) & Ms. Marisol Rodriguez (MCPSC) to Closed Session.

Ms. Finocchario moved to enter Closed Session and Dr. Hicks provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved via roll call, as follows:

Hon. Ardie Bland	Aye
Mrs. Lydia Butler	Aye
Mrs. Angela DeWilde	Aye
Ms. Brandi Finocchario	Aye
Dr. Asia Foster	Aye
Dr. Sarah Hicks	Aye
Mr. Jim McDonald	Aye
Ms. Selina Rios	Aye

9. Return from Closed Session; report on any action taken as required.

Ms. Finocchario welcomed members of the public back into Open Session and reported that discussion related to (13) Individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings, or records pertaining to employees. No action was taken that requires reporting.

10. Adjourn *[Board Action]*

Mr. MacDonald moved to adjourn and Ms. Rios provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

[/rb]