



**Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Directors of Citizens of the World Kansas City**

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Online Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89055018114>

Passcode: 8Bs2GS

(646) 931-3860 | 355512

**Date:** Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:00pm

**Approved Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Finocchario called the meeting to order at 6:05 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  
Ms. Sophia Bond  
Mr. James Brown (6:30 pm)  
Mrs. Lydia Butler  
Mrs. Angela DeWilde  
Ms. Brandi Finocchario  
Dr. Asia Foster  
Mr. Jim MacDonald  
Ms. Selina Rios

Absent:

Dr. Sarah Hicks  
Mr. Roosevelt Lyons

Ms. Finocchario determined that with 8 of 11 (later 9 of 11) Board Members present, a quorum is established for purposes of holding the meeting and voting.

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

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

*Mrs. Butler 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.

### **5. Consent Agenda** *[Board Action]*

- a. Review & Consideration of minutes from the May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 regular meeting of the Board
- b. Review & Consideration of minutes from the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 special meeting of the Board
- c. Review & Consideration of minutes from the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 special meeting of the Board
- d. Strategic Plan Dashboard
- e. Board & Committee Calendar
- f. Staffing Report
- g. Events Calendar

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

### **6. Staff Recognition**

- a. Recognition of Founding Leadership Team Member, Ms. Sara Nelson

Dr. Miles shared that Ms. Sara Nelson, Director of Special Education, has decided to relocate to Wisconsin, so she will be departing the staff at the end of the month. Dr. Miles read a tribute to Ms. Nelson and provided a strong statement of gratitude for her work on the founding team, which many Board members echoed.

### **7. Board Committee Business & Reports**

- a. **Executive Committee** (Ms. Brandi Finocchario) *[Information/Discussion]*
  - i. Update on Executive Director Annual Evaluation

Ms. Finocchario reminded the Board that Dr. Hicks sent individual evaluation links out to all Board members last week and encouraged a quick response. She then gave an overview of the evaluation timeline, to be concluded at the regular July Board meeting.

- b. **Educational Equity Committee** (Ms. Selina Rios) *[Information/Discussion]*  
i. Presentation of Spring 2024 NWEA Data

Ms. Rios asked Dr. Miles to present a summary of the Spring 2024 NWEA assessment data.

Dr. Miles reminded the Board that the school's charter "Academic Goal #5" for 2023-24 holds that 55% of CWCKC students will meet both Math and ELA projected growth targets as measured by NWEA's MAP projection. Currently, 54% of students are meeting targets in ELA and 44% in Math.

Overall, students performed as follows:

- Math: 16% advanced, 17% proficient (33% A+P), 23% basic, 43% below basic
- ELA: 18% advanced, 19% proficient (37% A+P), 26% basic, 37% below basic

These results reflect slight increases, but overall held fairly steady year-over-year.

By grade level, 4<sup>th</sup> grade notably performed the best in Math (44% A+P), while 4<sup>th</sup> (42% A+P) and 8<sup>th</sup> (46% A+P) performed the best in ELA. Dr. Miles did remind the Board that 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade have the least number of students too.

Pivoting from overall achievement to overall growth, overall 44% of all students met their projected growth target from fall-to-spring in Math (slightly down from 46% in 2022-23) and 54% of all students met their target in ELA (up from 48% in 2022-23).

Looking back at a grade-level breakdown, again 4<sup>th</sup> grade performed the best in Math, but Kindergarten (55% A+P) and First Grade (40% A+P) were also strong. Dr. Miles shared that she was encouraged that Kindergarten has never had that many students in Above and as few in Below; hard work has paid off. She also reminded the Board that in Middle School, the school elected to utilize Elevate K12 (virtual) with an on-site Classroom Coach. Students' first semester scores were stronger and the school had on-site staff transition issues in the second semester and the impact of that is clear in the scores. Growth-wise, 4<sup>th</sup> graders had 67% of students meet their projected targets whereas 2022-23's 1<sup>st</sup> graders (this year's 2<sup>nd</sup> graders) are the focus area with only 26% of them still meeting growth targets.

8<sup>th</sup> grade performed the best in ELA (54% A+P) with most every other grade between 33-43%. There were strong reflections of growth (80% in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 67% in 8<sup>th</sup>, 65% in 1<sup>st</sup>, and 60% in 4<sup>th</sup>) and Dr. Miles attributes it to the teachers teaching the curriculum with fidelity.

Then looking at student subgroup (race/ethnicity) performance, Dr. Miles reminded the Board that the charter goal was <10% variance between groups. In actuality, White students continue to outperform non-White students in ELA (66% A+P), although less pronounced in Math (63% A+P). In growth data, the variance narrowed. In Math growth, 60% of White students met their targets while Hispanic/Latino (43%), Black/African-American (34%) and Mixed Race (50%) trailed just behind. In ELA growth, 72% of White students met their targets while Hispanic/Latino (56%), Black/African-American (47%), and Mixed Race (35%) also trailed.

Dr. Miles lastly presented a breakdown of additional student subgroup performance and growth.

Dr. Miles shared reflections that:

- She tried to put an assessment gap (timing-wise) between Spring NWEA and MAP; she is curious if MAP data will be positively impacted.
- According to the assessment data, the Middle School Math instructional method (Elevate) did not have as positive impact as hoped.
- She shared an anecdotal observation that classroom management needs to improve and therefore, next year's classroom focus will be on "cognitive load" – lessen the teacher voice and increase the student involvement/participation.
- She identified that not all teachers are teaching to the level the standard requires them to; that will be a focus as well.

Mr. MacDonald inquired if data from other peer schools is publicly available. Dr. Miles affirmed that MAP data is not available yet; NWEA is a nationally normed test, so this data is immediately compared to peer schools.

Mr. Bond asked if other charters use NWEA? Dr. Miles replied that about 40% do; others use iReady or STAR. CWCS requires NWEA though.

Dr. Miles further affirmed she is fully aware next year's charter goal is 60%, so it is front and center for her to be sure and hit that.

Mr. Brown joined at 6:20 pm.

**c. Finance & Operations Committee** (Mrs. Lydia Butler)

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

Mrs. Butler presented the May Financial Report and highlighted the Balance Sheet, showing a current cash balance of \$2.25m, with a projected year-end balance of \$2.1m. This reflects 112 days of cash on hand and is lower than the original budget due to the fact that the school has moved almost \$300k of revenue (the ERC credit) from FY24 to FY25. She reminded the Board that the 112 days is higher than the sponsor requirement of 60 days and is specifically in place to fund the next two years of deficit spending.

Mrs. Butler presented the May Financial Report and highlighted page 6's Balance Sheet, showing a current Cash Balance just over \$2m, with a projected year-end balance of \$2.5m.

She shared the Income Statement, highlighting:

- Year-to-date revenue of \$6.9m, against a budget of \$6.75m.
- Year-to-date expenses of \$6.4m, against a budget of \$6.3m.
- Net Income of \$423k, against a budget of \$625k.
- Forecasted year-end revenue of \$7.3m, against a budget of \$7.5m.
- Forecasted year-end expenses of \$7.0m, against a budget of \$6.7m.
- Forecasted year-end Net Income of \$342k against a budget of \$795k.
- A projected 112 days of cash on hand position, decreasing from last month.

Specifically looking at expenses, Mrs. Butler shared that the expense overages (compared to budget) are significantly tied to substitute costs and student transportation services. School staff has worked to reduce other expense categories where possible to offset these increases.

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

*Mr. Brown moved to approve the May Financial Report and Check Register as proposed and Ms. Rios provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.*

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

### **i. Update on Leadership/Staffing**

Again, Dr. Miles reported that Ms. Nelson (Director of Special Education) resigned; she is working on a staffing solution. While a bit concerned about finding a quality candidate this late in the hiring cycle, she is exploring a few options and plans an update in July.

Otherwise, Dr. Miles shared that the school is almost fully staffed; there are current openings for 1 SpEd Para as well as the Middle School Math Coach to support Elevate. Additionally, the hiring process is underway for an additional grant-funded position for a literacy coach through SchoolSmart KC.

### **ii. Update on Summer School**

Dr. Miles reported that summer enrollment is holding at 140 students strong and the program is going very well.

She noted that the school team worked with our landlord to push the needed facility repairs to next summer, which will negate any construction impact for this year. However, the repairs will fully involve the building next year and the school will need another site for summer school. She is exploring a lead and is hopeful to confirm in the next month or two.

### **iii. Update on 2024-2025 Enrollment (Mrs. Katy Lineberry)**

Mrs. Lineberry reported strong enrollment, with 2nd-3rd-5th-7th-8th fully enrolled and on a waitlist. Kindergarten (for one of the first times ever) and 4<sup>th</sup> are very close, with openings in 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

She also shared an opportunity for an additional Kindergarten classroom at Operation Breakthrough. School leadership is still finalizing details of that expanded partnership.

Dr. Foster asked about family engagement opportunities and classroom practice alignment between the two classroom sites. Dr. Miles responded and then Dr. Foster also confirmed if teachers would be collaborating.

Dr. Miles also discussed Middle School students going over to their maker space one time per week.

**9. Adjourn** *[Board Action]*

*Dr. Foster moved to adjourn and Mr. MacDonald provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.*

[/rb]