



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

Location: Westport Plexpod, Meeting Room #2-1
300 E. 39th St.
Kansas City, MO 64111

Online Link (Audio Only):
meet.google.com/aia-znus-mgy
(252) 628-9173 | PIN: 178 892 761#

Date: Thursday, October 20th, 2022, 6:00pm

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

Ms. Finocchario called the meeting to order at 5:38 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:

Hon. Ardie Bland
Ms. Brandi Finocchario
Dr. Asia Foster
Dr. Sarah Hicks
Mr. Jim MacDonald
Mr. Luke Norris
Ms. Selina Rios (6:10pm)

Absent:

Mr. Jeff Phillips

Ms. Finocchario determined that with 6 of 8 (later 7 of 8) 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.

Ms. Finocchario requested one modification to the agenda: remove "Review & Consideration of Policy Updates" from the Consent Agenda. She reported that school staff requested that item be tabled until the November meeting.

Dr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda as modified and Mr. MacDonald provided a second to the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

4. Public Comments

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

5. Citizens Stories (Dr. Danielle Miles) *[Information/Discussion]*

Ms. Rios joined at 6:10pm.

a. Student Presentation – Egg Drop Winners

Dr. Miles introduced three 5th graders: Mr. Ian Smith, Ms. Charlotte Westermann & Ms. Ruth Weber, and their teachers Ms. Nowlin & Ms. Roland. Dr. Miles shared that 5th grade completed their first Project-Based Learning (PBL) activity of the year, an Egg Drop Challenge. Students worked in teams throughout the grade level and the winning team was invited to present tonight.

The students presented their winning idea, walked through their research and idea process, discussed their findings on why their egg contraption worked the best, and shared the lessons they learned.

The Board asked the students questions about their projects and process and encouraged them on their success and learning!

6. Consent Agenda *[Board Action]*

- a. Review & Consideration of minutes from the September 22nd, 2022 regular meeting of the Board
- b. Strategic Plan Dashboard
- c. Board & Committee Calendar

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

Dr. Hicks moved to approve the Consent Agenda as proposed and Mr. MacDonald provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining.

7. Board Committee Business & Reports

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.

- a. **Finance & Operations** (Mr. Jeff Phillips)
i. Finance Committee Report *[Information/Discussion]*

Mr. Brennan shared the Financial Report, reflecting the school's finances through September 30th. He reminded the Board that the financial reports thus far for FY23 have not reflected the "funding equity" legislation that has been passed; instead, the Finance Committee has wanted DESE to unequivocally confirm that this increased payment will occur in FY23 and not in FY24. Between the time of this report preparation and this Board meeting, DESE has provided that confirmation. Additionally, the school has learned that the funding equity legislation language includes a provision specifically allowing charter schools to claim payment based on the highest WADA from either the previous two fiscal years or the current year. Therefore, the school will be requesting on FY21 WADA (496 students). Therefore, the financial projections presented tonight – without funding equity revenue included – are quite a bit lower than what is now known to be true.

He reported that cash on hand was projected to be \$559k, which while \$466k below budget, was an improvement of \$40k over last month. This equates to 31 days of cash on hand.

He further shared that year-to-date actual revenue was \$1.4m against a \$1.3m budget, due to receipt of unbudgeted DHSS covid-19 mitigation funds, collection of ACE fees, and the sale of some lunchroom tables. Year-to-date expenses are \$1.6 against a budget of \$1.6, resulting in an actual Net Income of (-\$196k) against a budget of (-\$261k).

Looking ahead, Mr. Brennan highlighted that revenue was forecasted to be \$6.3m against a budget of \$6.6m while expenses are forecasted to be \$6.6m against a budget of \$6.4m. Net income would have been (-\$311k) against a budget of \$154k. Again, those numbers will now change substantially.

- ii. Review & Consideration of Monthly Financials (September 2022), including Check Register *[Board Action]*

Mr. Brennan reported that the Finance Committee did not denote anything on the Financials or Check Register out of the ordinary, all Accounts Payable appeared in order, and that the Committee recommended acceptance.

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

- b. **Educational Equity Committee** (Ms. Selina Rios)

Ms. Rios reported that the Educational Equity Committee discussed the Middle School lanyard system at length as well as broadly discussing equity issues amongst subgroups. The Committee will have further conversation at their next meeting, including a presentation by Mr. Butler.

Ms. Rios then invited and introduced Dr. Miles to present Fall 2022 NWEA assessment data.

- i. Review of 2022-23 NWEA and Fountas & Pinnell Assessment Data *[Information/Discussion]*

Dr. Miles first presented high-level trends to the Board, which reflected that challenges within core academics prior to the pandemic are reinforced by the current NWEA evidence. Looking at achievement, the school continued to have lower relative performance in Reading and lower relative performance in both Reading and Math across all student populations with the exception of white students. Looking at growth, however, there are higher percentages of students in Grades 1 – 5 that are meeting projected growth targets in Reading.

Looking at the trends from the past 4 NWEA assessments (Fall 2021, Winter 2021, Spring 2022, and Fall 2022), the percentage of students on or above the national average in achievement are:

- Math: 35% > 32% > 34% > 36%
- Reading: 44% > 42% > 40% > 36%

This shows consistency in Math, but a dip in Reading. 1st graders took this assessment for this first time this Fall and that impacted the trends quite significantly; Dr. Miles expects those percentages to increase as those younger students progress through the year.

Looking at projected Math proficiency in the MAP assessment, 24% of students are projected Proficient or Advanced, with 3rd grade performing the highest. In Reading, 32% of students are projected Proficient or Advanced, with a majority of students projected at Basic. 5th graders are performing highest here and these results mirror last Spring's MAP scores. Dr. Miles shared that she is not excited about the scores, but is excited about the direct phonics instruction that has been implemented this year and she is looking forward to Growth in Winter, especially since she noted the instructional team in 3-5th is especially strong this year.

Looking at Growth, the school's goal (which is the norm across the nation), is that 50% of students hit growth targets – the school is on target with exactly 50% meeting targets in Math and 49% meeting in Reading. Besides Year 1 (2016-17), these results are about 20% higher than the pandemic.

Specifically looking at Math, Dr. Miles presented Achievement data by grade level, which showed Grades 1-5 representing a majority of students that performed on or above the national average; Grade 6 had the largest proportion of students that performed in the lowest quartile. She then presented Growth data by grade level, which showed nearly all grade levels performed within the expected range of 50-60%, with the exception of 3rd and 8th grade.

Then specifically looking at Reading, Dr. Miles presented Achievement data by grade level, which showed 5th grade particularly outperforming all other grade levels for being at/above grade level – this shows a lot of growth from 2022's MAP test. Additionally, 3rd graders performed well too. Looking at Growth, students in Grades 3-6 performed at/near the expected 50-60% range, Grade 2 was just shy, and Grades 7-8 were lower.

Dr. Miles then looked at Achievement data by race/ethnicity subgroup. Both subjects showed similar trends in that Black and Hispanic/Latino students had the highest proportions of students in the lowest quartile and White students had the largest proportion in the highest quartile.

Shifting to Growth data by race/ethnicity subgroup, in Math there was a lower percentage of Black and Hispanic students meeting projected growth targets relative to White students. Black students slipped just below 50%, but Dr. Miles was encouraged that number is holding close to the

50% goal. In Reading, there is a similar trend of lower percentages of Black and Hispanic students meeting projected growth targets relative to White students.

Dr. Miles also presented a data cut showing Achievement by "Additional Student Identifiers" (FRL eligible, Students with an IEP, English Language Learners). In both subjects, students in these groups had greater proportions of students in the lowest quartile in comparison to all students. This has not been a historical trend, so she is diving deeper into this.

Relatedly, the Growth data for that subgroup showed that students across all additional identifier groups are at or above the percentage of all students who met projected growth targets (all groups at or just above 50%) in Math. In Reading, the results varied with English Learners showing the most significant proportion of students who met projected targets (67%).

Mr. Norris asked how attrition impacts these results; can we add in another layer of length of enrollment? Dr. Miles responded that she will plan to include that data cut for Winter and beyond. Mr. Norris affirmed that the school wants to tell that story and is being held accountable to that story and also to underscore to parents that continuity positively impacts assessment data.

Dr. Hicks noted that the Fall assessment for 3rd graders is usually wonky on ELA because it is the first time they read their own assessment.

Dr. Foster asked what the academic interventions at 8th grade look like? Dr. Miles replied that, as a result of this assessment, the middle school team has restructured intervention/class time for 7th-8th graders.

Ms. Rios asked about ethnic breakdown of ELL students and discussed increasing ELL support to broadly bolster that group.

Dr. Hicks asked how the growth targets/goals are being communicated to support and empower teachers and students? Dr. Miles replied that it has not been the school culture to focus on assessments and results (by design – Citizens students "go beyond test scores"). There has been a shift in Middle School, though – not to have them hyper-focused on where they're at, but rather have an awareness of what their scores and personal growth targets are.

Dr. Miles also presented internal Fountas & Pinnell assessment data, with the primary takeaway that 85% of 1st graders are not at grade level. This is her main focus. Overall, getting Kindergarteners reading is how to shift a school. She believes we have the right teachers in place – they're working hard and collaboratively. We have great Special Education teachers. She expects 1st grade to shift positively throughout the year, to see increases in 2nd/3rd grade, and for 4th grade to hold. She has a specific focus on 3rd grade: students need to make the shift to reading to learn instead of learning to read.

Mr. MacDonald asked how instruction looks different for students that are reading below grade level; what kind of extra support is built in? Dr. Miles replied that the faculty is focusing more on Tier 1 instruction – everyone is learning at the level they should be. From there, teachers scaffold students into small groups, and if further support is needed, they are pulled out for Title services (either small groups or individual services).

c. **Executive Committee** (Ms. Brandi Finocchario)

Ms. Finocchario shared that there will be a Facility Working Committee next Wednesday to look at facility needs and budgets for the next 3 to 5 years.

8. New Business

a. Discussion of Ballot Issue – Jackson County Children's Services Fund (Mr. Jim McDonald)
[Information/Discussion]

Mr. MacDonald gave an overview of the ballot issue and encouraged everyone to vote. He reminded the Board that the Children's Services Fund is a significant funder of Citizens so the measure directly impacts the school. The measure will renew the fund, eliminate the sunset clause, and increase funding.

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

a. Staffing Update

Dr. Miles reported that the school hired a 2nd grade teacher, which re-completes that grade level team. She expressed appreciation to Ms. Gibbs for her strong support in the interim. She also reported that a PE teacher has been hired to fill that vacancy as well.

On the other hand, Dr. Miles shared that a 4th grade teacher resigned due to health issues. Mr. Butler divided that class into the other 2 classrooms; she is currently searching for either a TA to support the two or a replacement 3rd classroom teacher. The school is continuing to also hire for an additional SpEd Instructional Assistant.

Overall, Dr. Miles reports a very collaborative faculty with a very strong support staff.

b. Student Recruitment Update (Mrs. Katy Lineberry)

Mrs. Lineberry shared that Enrollment Season is about to kick off with City School Fair. Student applications open at that point, through March 1st (lottery date). Re-enrollment will run through February. She is continuing to focus on preschool outreach and school tours and will specifically reach out to this year's PK applicants for next year's Kindergarten seats.

She is working toward a significant increase in social media presence this year and is excited about a website refresh launch coming at the end of the month.

Mrs. Lineberry also reported that student retention is a key priority for this year and Dr. Miles has supported that focus by establishing regular meeting opportunities with current parents. Dr. Miles discussed those meetings and shared that, overall, she's seeing that a main "issue" is simply a lack of connection. She looks forward to sharing a trend report with the Board throughout Nov/Dec meeting.

Lastly, Mrs. Lineberry asked Board for direction on how often they would like to receive enrollment reports; the Board confirmed monthly.

10. Adjourn *[Board Action]*

Dr. Hicks moved to adjourn and Ms. Rios provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved with none abstaining. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

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