

Purpose Built Schools Atlanta, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheryl Lomax, Shirley Franklin, Ingrid Saunders Jones
STAFF PRESENT: Sean Brazier, Vinice Davis, Nicole Evans Jones, Barbara Preuss, Luqman Abdur-Rahman, Lenise Bostic, Kenya Browning

CHERYL LOMAX CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 1:06 PM WITH A QUORUM (3 OF 4)

TOPIC: Minutes of the April 18, 2017 Board Meeting

DISCUSSION: None.

MOTION: Made by Ingrid Saunders Jones to approve the April 18, 2017 minutes.

ACTION: Seconded by Shirley Franklin and carried without dissent.

TOPIC: Updates on Audit

DISCUSSION: Cheryl Lomax met with auditors privately last month. Auditors also met with staff. Auditors will be back on site in August. Scheduled for audit report to be completed at the end of October.

Standing Updates:

TOPIC: Updates on Thomasville Heights year-end test performance (Georgia Milestones)

DISCUSSION:

- Barbara Preuss reviewed the Georgia Milestones achievement, growth, discipline, and attendance data for Thomasville Heights 2016-2017.
- Only 3rd – 5th grades are tested throughout the state. First time that Thomasville had students scored as “distinguished”. 4th graders aren’t able to retake the milestone test, per the state requirements.
- PBSA will make revisions to curriculum at Thomasville to continue to improve scores.
- Still awaiting scores from other schools in APS.
- PBSA and APS contract is based on a “challenge index” that compares PBSA schools across similar schools within the district. The Challenge Index (developed by APS’ Research & Evaluation Department specifies the targets by which all elementary and middle schools will be measured.
- Reviewed Science and SS Milestones across the state (only taken by 5th graders across the state).
- Overall, we took a solid first step on what we expect will be a 5-7 year turnaround journey. Though results are not final, we expect very strong results in Math and made positive though more modest gains in ELA.

- Nonetheless, our students showed significant growth for the first time in decades. While there is still plenty of work to do, we believe we made great strides and look forward to building on this momentum next year.
- Thomasville students made some gains when analyzing cohort analysis.
- Thomasville attendance data improved from last year.
- Discipline data showed a decrease in the number of out-of-school suspension days each Thomasville student received in 2016-2017.
- Suggestion for PBSA to have a communication outreach strategy next year.
- Suggestion for ensuring that there is adequate summer programming for students across PBSA.
- Suggestion for PBSA to provide specific needs list (books (paper and electronic), emergency toiletries for students, etc.) to the board.
- Suggestion for beautification for outside Thomasville.

TOPIC: Review of our financial position through May 31, 2017

DISCUSSION:

- For 2016-2017, expected to end year 7-10% over budget (\$9.2M ending) – will likely be a little less than this.
- PBSA only drew down \$1.2M on credit line, as opposed to \$2.76M.
- Staff is working on closing the end of year books in July.

TOPIC: Final 2017-18 FY budget for approval

DISCUSSION:

- PBSA is projecting to earn ~\$19M for the 2017-18 school year across our three schools. This projection is based on an expected 1,266 students at the three schools (427 K-5 students at THES, 535 K-5 at Slater, and 304 6-8th at Price Middle).
- PBSA expects to spend ~\$22.4M for the school year, thus requiring ~\$3.4M in credit. This is mostly due to adding ~175 new staff members and taking on taking on significant operational (e.g., transportation, custodial, in-house accounting) responsibilities.

TOPIC: New Market Tax Credit

DISCUSSION:

- Creating a new organization (PBSA Community Engagement, Inc.) to run PBSA's Community Support efforts.
- This process will generate over \$2M in funds through a series of financial transactions that will be available to fund the community support efforts.

- Greg Giornelli and Cheryl Lomax will meet with execution team to discuss next steps, prepare Board summary documents, and update Board at the next meeting.

TOPIC: Board Actions

DISCUSSION: Approval of 2017-2018 budget

MOTION: Made by Shirley Franklin

ACTION: Seconded by Ingrid Saunders and carried without dissent.

Next meeting, to be scheduled in August. No July meeting. Next meeting will take place at Price Middle School.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vinice Davis
Chief Operating Officer