



Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2020, 5:00-7:00pm
Via ZOOM Video Conference

Board Members Present

Frank Rowe
Katie Kellen
Ed Likovich
Emily Wasserman
Julie Fincham
Barbara Washington
Jennifer Evans
Kristina Campos
Adam Burrows
Jamaica Burke
Amy Friedman
Pam Horiszny
Ethan Hemming

Board Members Absent

GALS Staff

Carol Bowar
Carrie Donovan
Sara Shapiro
Dorian Bennett
Felicia Soifer
Nina Safane
Melissa Flores
Trace Faust

Jennifer calls the meeting to order.

There is no public comment.

Katie moves to approve the minutes. The Board approves the March 16, 2020 minutes with changes discussed.

Jennifer thanks the school leaders for all of their work and the incredible work of their teachers and staff during the transition to online learning.

Carol welcomes Pam to the Board.

The heads of school provide updates regarding the switch to online learning.

- Donovan talks about the current schedule and the efforts to make the 2020 class feel seen. Donovan also discusses the hardships facing kids in lower socio-economic classes. Despite the challenges, there are only a few kids who the high school has not been able to connect with. Most students are on track to graduate. Only a few students are not on track to graduate, however, this was true before the Covid-19 pandemic.



- Dorian, Felicia, and Nina report on BOYS. Felicia reports about BOYS schedule, which involves 2 Zoom classes each day, Zoom office hours, and use of Google Classroom. Felicia also discusses efforts to make sure all kids can get online and participate. BOYS has 80-85% average attendance and are actively reaching out to make sure all boys attend their classes. BOYS staff are focused on maintaining the strong community and the other aspects of the school that made it unique and successful.
- Sara discusses their efforts to hold on to GALS' core values. One thing that the middle school is doing that has been successful is focusing on keeping things "simple." This is important for an equity standpoint and had a big impact on how the middle school set up the schedule. Each student has one content class per day. The students also have access to their teachers when not in class. The average attendance is 93-94%. A team is working to reach the kids who are not attending. Sara also recognizes the incredible work of the inclusion team to make sure all students across all three schools are receiving the services they need.

Carol discusses the Board deck that was shared as part of the Board pre-read. DPS voted to use the state SPF for accountability purposes. However, this year state testing has been cancelled so there will not be any SPF for the 2019-2020 year. It is not clear what this will mean for renewal for the HS, but DPS is working on accountability measures without testing. Internally, the schools are going to use the UIP (Unified Improvement Plan) to hold themselves accountable to the goals they set in the fall.

Jennifer provides an update regarding the future of GALS Inc.

Carol provides an update on BOYS closeout procedures.

Trace provides an update regarding enrollment. GALS' two priorities are (1) retaining families by being the best at remote learning (decreasing attrition) and (2) recruiting new families, including families who are dissatisfied with their remote experience and families who did not participate in round 1. Trace discusses her efforts to connect with these groups and collaborate with other schools.

Carol provides an update on finances. GALS submitted an application for a PPP loan and was approved. Carol discusses the precautions GALS is taking to track the money and how it can use the money to have the loan forgiven. Carol then discusses the potential cons of accepting the money. Carol requests Board approval for the application. The Board moves to approve the application. The motion to approve the application passes.

Carol discusses the financials and current projections. Currently the schools are projected to end in the red. Part of this was adding Nina and Jenn to the payroll. Covid-19 also decreased three of the grants we expected to receive. Carol also discusses a change to the way we track staff costs that should lead to better tracking, projections, and accountability going forward. The PPP loan could affect where the schools ultimately finish the year.



Carol discusses FY21 budget projections. The DPS outlook is very bleak, and includes a likely decrease in PPR. Given this and potentially low enrollment, GALS is currently operating under a salary freeze. Carol is also looking at other ways to reduce the budget. The Board discusses the various budget scenarios that Carol presented and its concerns. The consensus is that the planning must be conservative. The Board also recognizes that the GALS model is expensive. The Board agrees there needs to be a longer conversation about our use of reserves.

The meeting is adjourned.