

AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 25, 2010, 6:00 pm
Riverside Campus – 680 I Street SW, Washington, DC 20024

Trustees present: Jennifer Cohen, Liz Daley, Matt Downs, Bridget Bradley Gray, Elizabeth Keys, Jack McCarthy, Skylé Pearson.

Management present: Ross Harold, Mary Anne Lesiak, Russ Williams, Anne Zummo.

Call to order. After establishing that a quorum was present, Mr. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm.

Consent calendar: approval of minutes from April meeting. Ms. Gray moved to approve the items on the consent calendar and Mr. Downs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Principals' reports. Mr. Harold reported that his staff is preparing for next year and is planning for students who may come in with special needs, including speech or hearing problems. He noted that Amidon will have a new principal next year, but did not anticipate any difficulty with the transition. Ms. Zummo reported that the open houses at Columbia Heights have been well-received. All three campuses are finishing year-end assessments, and both principals told the trustees that initial data is positive. Both are also interviewing candidates and working with receiving schools to ensure a smooth transition to kindergarten for special education students.

Executive Director's report. Mr. Williams reported that the Title I funding issue seems unlikely to be resolved in the near term as the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) indicated to affected charter schools that they believe the best way to resolve the issue is in the five-year review of the uniform per student funding formula.

Finance Committee's report. Mr. Williams and Ms. Gray noted that the school's expenses and revenues continue to track very closely to budget. The committee noted that the variance is close to zero, which suggests that our budgeting process produces a good, accurate budget. The annual audit is scheduled for the first week in August. The Finance Committee and Board had all agreed in principle last year to retain the same audit firm if the Board felt that the firm's work was thorough, timely, and cost effective. It was also noted that the continuity of AELCPS' relationship with its auditing firm may be beneficial, as the firm can make recommendations to the school on expanded internal controls as the school grows. Ms. Gray conveyed the recommendation of the Finance Committee that Strack and Stanfield be selected as the auditor. Ms. Gray then moved to select Strack and Stanfield as the audit firm to conduct the school's annual audit. Ms. Cohen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Board self-review. The Governance Committee will take the lead on the self-evaluation process, including creating and sending a survey to trustees.

2010/2011 budget. The Finance Committee presented the final 2010/2011 budget. The trustees discussed enrollment and how that should be estimated and the implications for being under-enrolled vs. full enrollment. Management believes that estimates used in creating the budget, including the uniform per student funding formula, are conservative. Management and the trustees also agreed that the budget may need to be updated or re-approved as we have clearer information about enrollment and income. Ms. Gray moved

to accept the 2010/2011 budget. Ms. Keys seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Director of Education's report. Ms. Lesiak told the trustees that she had recently served on DCPCSB's early education task force. She reported that the expert brought in by DCPCSB agreed with the concerns raised by several schools about growth vs. achievement measurements for early education students. The way in which preschool through second grade programs are evaluated will change from the originally proposed performance management framework (PMF), and while the targets and target ranges are under negotiation, the new tool will look more like the schools' original accountability plans. As there is not a common indicator or measure, there will not be a rating system.

Executive session. The trustees agreed to reconvene in executive session via conference call to complete the performance review of the executive director.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Elizabeth Keys

Secretary

The next meeting of the AELPCS Board of Trustees is Tuesday, June 22, 2010.