



Inspired Teaching
Demonstration School

Board of Directors Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES

November 9, 2022

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. ET

at the Inspired Teaching Demonstration School
300 Douglas Street NE, Washington, DC

In attendance: Morris Clarke, Maureen Ingram, Michelle Lerner, Lucy Newton, Sundai Riggins, Pete Weber, Rusty Wilson, Leah Squires

Absent: Andrea Browning, Aleta Margolis

Staff: Kate Keplinger

Minutes by: Joanne Irby, Board Secretary

Called to Order: 6:12 pm

Approval of Minutes: January 9, 2023

Motion: The Board moved to approve the meeting minutes from August 31, 2022, with amendments to a) reflect that school leadership will engage the school community to more clearly articulate the school's academic identity; and b) that the equity work should be framed as "priorities" rather than merely a discussion. *Approved with amendments.*

Community Comments: None.

Committee Updates

Meeting Schedules: Lucy asked Committee Chairs who haven't yet developed a schedule to share with her and Joanne so that we can distribute to the whole board.

● **Academic Committee**

- Have met with the school team to discuss their goals; The school team's goals were focused on advancing Black students and special needs students academically; considering a bridge program for Middle School students; K-2 students who were admitted through the equitable access preference were below grade level.
- Close to being able to share this data with the Board, when the committee meets to discuss
- Have started outreach to the Progressive Educators Network to learn more about how they articulate and measure academic performance
- Committee will meet with staff in February after next tranche of performance data is available

- **Demonstration Committee**
 - Committee has compiled notes on the Board's perspectives on what ITDS seeks to demonstrate, synthesized into themes and a draft synopsis
 - Committee will meet with Dr. Riggins next week to finalize the definition, and identify audiences, with Dr. Riggins, Monisha, and school leadership
 - Would like to create a document that shares the historical context for why Demonstration is at the heart of the school's mission

- **Finance Committee**
 - Committee established five goals for the year: refine the existing finance committee operating manual; invest available funds for growth; ID categories for flexible expenditures; ensure compliance with bond holders; support the school in its ongoing business operations and financial decisions
 - Audit is in progress, Rusty will be interviewed by the auditors as in prior years
 - Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10am
 - Transition work of moving away from Building Pathways' building manager (JLL) will begin soon with an RFP; targeting early in the new year to have a new building manager onboard
 - Rusty will circulate manual as a reference for other Committees

- **Nominations and Governance Committee**
 - Goals include consolidation of committee records/manuals/etc.; develop a guideline document on how we obtain a consistent pipeline of board members; create an onboarding document for new Board members/prospects
 - Morris has had a discussion with one potential Board member, a parent at the school; she will reach out to a few existing Board members for their perspectives on membership
 - Discussion of Board size, will want to complete the above documents to support the additional growth
 - Education Board Partners candidate has become unresponsive, will move on to the next candidate

- **Executive Committee**
 - Met with Dr. Riggins, will support the school's efforts around equity conversations among the staff
 - Will begin a strategic planning process, the equity work will inform the RFP
 - Committee will discuss with Pete some options for structuring a process and engaging a consultant

Head of School updates:

- *Little Mermaid* is underway, the cast has been selected, show is in March 2023, will be the first major ITDS production, and perhaps become an ITDS tradition; will include full classes at the elementary level, with middle school students having lead roles, will also allow kids who might be interested in the arts and excited about Duke Ellington to have portfolio building experience

- Soccer team is undefeated, heading into the semi-finals, the finals if they make it will be at Audi Field
- Masking has ended at the school after the first 5 - 6 weeks; there have been more flu and covid cases, but not everyone is testing; will go to class masking and test to stay if the numbers increase; also have masking when kids are returning from long breaks
- Received the AALE letter confirming accreditation for the next 5 years, which meets our PCSB compliance and demonstrates the strength of the school
- Principal Johnson will be focused on interventions around achievement gaps, in partnership with the leadership team
- Ms. Karnani, the Director of Demonstration and Outreach, is applying for an OSSE grant to support professional development, intervention resources; our goal would be to strengthen small group instruction models, that work will advance irrespective of receiving the grant
- Learning Showcase will be on the 17th, the first in-person one since 2019
- Listening series will begin after Thanksgiving Break; Principal Johnson has also hosted several sessions. Focus will be talking about extracurricular activities, socioemotional learning, enrichment opportunities, MAP reports, additional math opportunities and other competitive options for Middle Schoolers, etc. The meetings are recorded.
- IFA planned and executed a successful Fall Fest with great weather and turnout
- IFA has a new equity committee, they met with Dr. Riggins and Principal Johnson to brainstorm options, including tutoring, buddy families, affinity groups at the school.
- IFA is developing staff appreciation and wellness programming, including treats for teachers, holiday events, other opportunities throughout the school year
- Equity Work:
 - Met with an equity consultant last week with Andrea; discussed a staff-facing process
 - School sent revisions to the consultant's proposal, expecting to hear back this week, goal is for the work to be done this month
 - Goal is to complete the process before budgeting season, so that necessary resources can be budgeted for
- Equitable Access Preference:
 - Would like to continue to offer equity preference at the early childhood level
 - At-risk percentage has now grown to 22% of the student body; We enrolled 20 students, 15 of which would not have been matched to ITDS without the preference
 - Have identified some family resource issues, access barriers, and self-regulation issues; implementing strategies in order to assess impact, trend data; board is interested in data around this to understand resource needs
 - Discussion around whether the preference can bring in more kids from the immediate neighborhood
 - Board discussed exploring applying the resources for equitable access to the full school population

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 pm.