



## **Enlighten Academy Charter School Board Meeting**

September 28, 2021

The Board meeting of Enlighten Academy Charter School was called to order by Chair Anne Weyandt at 6:04pm. The meeting was held via ZOOM due to COVID19 CDC guidelines for social distancing and Safe at Home orders.

**Board members present via Zoom** were Anne Weyandt (Chair), Amy Ray (Secretary), John Cacich (Treasurer), Kathy Thao (Member at Large), Juli Baecker (Member at Large) and Mary Tacheny (member at large), Kate Morrow (Member at Large), Mike Byron (Member at Large)

**Board Members absent** Jim Bernstein (Vice Chair), Carols Gantchoff (Member at Large)

**Visitors:** Mary Weyandt (Volunteer Start Up Coordinator), Luli (NEO) and Linda (Grace Lutheran)

**Enlighten Academy Charter School Mission Statement:** Enlighten Academy Charter School's mission celebrates each student. We personalize learning for the whole child using evidence-based curriculum designed for learners to advance at their own pace. We are committed to a deeper learning that purposefully embodies our core values, led by innovative and empowered professional teachers.

**Enlighten Academy Charter School Vision Statement:** The Enlighten Academy Charter School vision is to be a vibrant, values-based PreK-Grade 5 learning community on the East Side of Saint Paul, welcoming students and families from richly diverse cultures and backgrounds.

- 1) Call to Order /Mission/Vision/Roll call
  - a) Mary T read Mission and Vision Statements
  - b) Board Chair Weyandt called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm
    - i) Roll Call: Mary T, John, Kathy, Mike, Kate, Juli, Amy and Anne
    - ii) Absent: Jim and Carlos
- 2) Conflict of Interest Disclosure – Anne
  - a) Mary W noted that our new Volunteer Start Up Coordinator is her sister Mary W. She will abstain from votes that would appear to be a conflict.
- 3) Agenda Review/Approval:
  - a) Motion to discuss by Juli Second by Mary
    - i) Discussion – None
  - b) Approved agenda unanimously
- 4) Review/Approve of Board Minutes from July 27, 2021

- a) July 27, 2021 Minutes: Moved by Mary second by Kate
  - i) Discussion: None
  - ii) Vote: Mary T. -yes, Mike yes, Amy - yes, Juli- yes, Kathy - yes, Kate - yes, John – yes and Anne - yes
  - iii) Unanimously Passed
- 5) Chair’s Report
  - a) Official MDE start delayed until Fall 2022 and grant dollars has changed to the next phase. All aspects of the board are busy to gear up for recruitment season
  - b) 5.1 Board Policies: Kate Delany Morrow
    - i) 5.1a Crisis Management
      - (1) Juli wondered if we need to specify “active shooter” in this section for clarity
      - (2) Mary W noted that this would fall under the general language used and with the level of students it is more appropriate
      - (3) Anne also noted that the wording is broad enough and overreaching enough to cover an active shooter without those specific words
      - (4) Moved by Juli, second by Jon
      - (5) Passed unanimously
    - ii) 5.1b Harassment and Violence
      - (1) Kate noted really taken directly from MDE with small changes to wording and titles reflective of our school
      - (2) Moved by Mary T, Second by Juli
      - (3) Passed unanimously
    - iii) 5.1c Student Bullying Prohibited
      - (1) Discussion – None
      - (2) Moved by Mary T Second by Kathy
      - (3) Passed unanimously
  - c) 5.2 Vision of Equity and Commitment to our students, families and Community: Mary W
    - i) New slides of progress of the school: received lots of donated good as new office and technology from Admentim.
    - ii) Updated newsletter to connect to our website so we can share our progress with families and the community
    - iii) Played a little icebreaker
    - iv) Assumption: strive for equity and justice
      - (1) Achievement/opportunity gap is real
      - (2) Racism is real
      - (3) Equity is not equal
      - (4) Relationship before rigor
    - v) Discussion and dialogue around why we are on the board
    - vi) Asking everyone to make a commitment to what they are able to do for recruitment: enrollment is our singular focus right now
    - vii) Reminder that the Founding Board is not the same as the Active Board
- 6) Finance/Facilities Committee John Cacich
  - a) 7.3 Invoice approvals: The Finance and Facilities Committee bring forth a package of invoices recommended to be approved by the board

- i) Package includes:
      - (1) The Anton Group: \$1250 (recurring)
      - (2) M & Management Phase 2: \$9171.50
      - (3) DAO Technology: \$16960.00 (Technology set up)
      - (4) DAO Technology: \$5894.00
      - (5) Lakeshore Learning: \$4435.21
      - (6) Furnish Office: \$773.93
    - ii) Discussion: None
    - iii) Rollcall Vote: John – yes, Juli-yes, Amy-yes, Mary T – yes, Mike – yes, Kate – Yes, Kathy – yes, Anne - yes
    - iv) Unanimously Passed
    - v) Additional note, with the donation received, some items may be returned and those dollars returned to the grant pool for use next summer.
    - vi) Juli brought up that the Edlio bill is set to renew here soon and she will work with them to see about moving out so it aligns with our pause on funds
  - b) 7.2 Space Renovation
    - i) Large 2 rooms are next, already billed and paid for for the fall and few areas are slated for next spring/summer
    - ii) Should have areas ready to “show” by Halloween.
  - c) 8.4 Treasurers Report
    - i) There should be between 25-30 K available come late Spring
    - ii) Around \$8000 in the Boards Checki-ng account to use until next June
    - iii) Anne brought up that there are several outstanding MDE payments for vendors who have completed work for us. Wondered if there was any way to get that expedited.
- 7) Outreach/Marketing Committee Juli Baecker
  - a) Website has been updated with past meeting dates, times, agenda and minutes once approved
  - b) 6.1 Outreach activities and recruitment
    - i) All roads lead to enrollment and open house in January.
    - ii) Call to action:
      - (1) Fire Safety in Oct: Conway REc center with a Firetruck Oct 21 or 22
      - (2) Working to build relationships with Apartments in the area
      - (3) Eastside apartments to do Halloween event (still in the works)
      - (4) November – Harvest type event
      - (5) December – something to connect with all of the communities
      - (6) Begin reaching out to learning centers in the area
    - iii) We will need help with phone calls, attend events
    - iv) SPPS school fair is Jan 22, so probably will do our open house prior to that.
    - v) John notes that we may need to reach out directly to members to volunteer when needed.
    - vi) Kate wondered if we have a list of community leaders to reach out to. Anne is going to check with Jim as he did have one earlier (may need dome updating) Kate also noted that East Side and Greater East side can seem similar and that we may want to cast a wider net to get students in chairs.

8) Public Comments

- a) Luli: Suggested that FB pages have helped a lot of schools with enrollment. CSP grant: when you finish a phase need a completed reports and inventory before payments are initiated, this may be part of the delay that Anne noted.
- b) Mike brought up the questions as to when we bring on a principle and how without the money to hire until spring 2022. Anne noted that this is tricky and will require further conversation.
  - i) Juli wondered if that could be part of our conversation with investors, to cover the salary of a principle
  - ii) Will be part of future agenda
- c) Linda: need to connect the right time, place and people. Grace remains committed to collaboration. They have ideas for money and help with achievement gap. Will follow up with Anne off line

9) Adjourn

- a) Moved by Mike Second by Mary T
- b) Unanimous vote
- c) Adjourned at 8:08 pm