



**Pattison's Academy for Comprehensive Education
(PACE) Charter School
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 15, 2018**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Gross, Randy Disharoon, Paige Knowlson

Attending on Conference Call: Gerry Kelly, Laurie Sessa, Tom Reilly

Board Members Excused: Jeff Crudup

PA Staff Present: Laura DelDuca, Paige Bogucki, Mason Duffy

Guests: Several members of the community

MEETING LOCATION: Conference Room, Charleston Medical Society, 198 Rutledge Place, Charleston.

Call to order: 5:00 pm

Call to Order and Welcome

Richard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 15, 2018 PACE Board minutes were reviewed. Randy made a motion for approval and Tom seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Randy presented the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the period through February 28, 2018 as well as the month to date and year to date budget for the same period. Randy reviewed each column of the budget as well as both the income and expense lines in some detail. He noted that as of end of February, there has been a total revenue of

\$774,317 received. After all expenses, the year to date total net income is (\$5,339). Even though a deficit is showing, the income and expense trends are moving in the right direction. Randy also noted that he and Paige Knowlson are having a meeting with the CFO of CCSD to discuss the count of students and how students are funded. We will receive more funding for the period July to December 2018 based on the increase in student enrollment to 37. Randy did report that Glenn Stiegman, who was the CFO of CCSD, has retired. Randy and Paige will meet with the new CFO in the next few weeks.

Principal's Report

Laura Del Duca, stated that the current census of the school is 34 students (3 homebound). One of our teacher assistants will be going to OT school in the fall and so we will need to replace her for next school year. This is exciting news as many of our assistants are finding their passion in therapy for our students. Also, Bailey Tompkins will be leaving us as she is moving from Charleston this spring. One of the bus drivers will assume the duties of cleaning the building on a temporary basis. There have been several exciting events recently. They include: Rob Fowler – weatherman for channel 4 gave a presentation on February 19th. Several Police officers gave a safety and security presentation on February 26th. The Tour de PACE was a huge success during Spirit Week which everyone enjoyed. Many of the staff attended a CCSD workshop on best practices for writing IEPs.

Laura stressed that with all the problems in schools, there is now increased building security. All front doors are locked as well as classroom doors. She has posted and reviewed safety plan guidelines and has installed Walkie Talkies in all classrooms. Laura is also setting up and interviewing teacher assistants and other teachers. She is working with teachers on a goal bank and working with staff on formalizing the procedure for new students (intake process). Finally, she is planning next year's calendar for 2018-2019. Some upcoming events include: River Dogs - Education Day 4/18/18 and Graduation Ceremony tentatively set for May 30th.

Dr. Gross raised an important issue for consideration. He noted that he spoke with the Director of Special Education Services, Department of Education in Columbia, and tried to emphasize that our students are being penalized in terms of funding since the SDOE does not recognize multiple disabilities as criteria for reimbursement. He stressed to the Board that we need to seriously advocate for the students and make this a public issue. It was suggested that Maureen Cannon could assist with this effort and perhaps several of the Board members could attend an upcoming meeting. As a Charter school, we need to have the issue heard so our students receive a maximum funding for their education. Dr. Gross thanked the Board for their involvement and urged them to keep this issue on the front burner.

Executive Director's Report

Paige reported that CCSD has voted to start a contract with PACE for the 2018-2019 School year, with the most likely location being North Charleston High School. This does not mean we are obligated to use the space, but that they have agreed to offer space to us and will start the process of developing a lease. It's a very fitting space for our current students, as well as our growing

population. As we continue our search, we do have a few other promising options in the West Ashley area. We are hoping to host a meeting for families to present our options in the next few weeks.

Laura Del Duca reported that she has made several visits to the school and feels like it could be mutually beneficial to both Pattison's students and the current high school students. The designated area can be described as "contained" meaning that it is not a major travel point for students changing classes. Our intent is to make the site a protective environment.

Several members of the community had comments regarding the choice of sites. Some wondered if this is really a temporary location or will it turn into a permanent site for Pattison's. While there is no guarantee that Pattison's will move next year, it is the option that we are encouraging. Our intention is to eventually move to a West Ashley site. While there is concern for student safety, hopefully parents will have the opportunity to tour the site and help both them and the Board make a final decision on the new location. Paige was optimistic that the decision will be made by the next Board meeting.

New Business

None as of this meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Tom and seconded by Randy. The members unanimously concurred, and the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:45pm

Next Meeting – Thursday, April 19, 2018

Location – To Be Determined

Time – 5:00pm

Gerard Kelly, PhD

Secretary