

## October 13, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes



FRAZIER PREPARATORY ACADEMY  
3711 W. Douglas Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60623

### Meeting Agenda Tuesday, October 13, 2015

- 1. Call to Order** – Robert Steele: I am calling the Frazier Preparatory Board Meeting for the month of October to order. It's now 6:20 and we'll get the meeting started at this time. I will as the secretary to call the roll of the meeting
- 2. Roll Call** – Nedra Joiner: Mr. Steele, Mr. Moore, Mr. Hardman, Ms. Joiner is present. (responses to roll call below)

| Name/Office                | Present | Absent | Excused | Dial-in |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| Robert Steele, Chairman    | X       |        |         |         |
| Tommy Moore, Vice Chairman | X       |        |         |         |
| Vincent Hardman, Treasurer | X       |        |         |         |
| Nedra Joiner, Secretary    | X       |        |         |         |
|                            |         |        |         |         |
|                            |         |        |         |         |

RS: We do have a quorum present at this time. I do thank you Ms. Joiner for bringing that quorum together for us. Is there anybody who has public discussion they would like to mention before we get started with our agenda for today? Hearing no public discussion I'm going to ask, hold my report until the bottom portion of the meeting. I do have some things I would like to share with you guys.

- 3. Public Discussion** – Presentations None at this time

- 4. Chairman Report**

R. Steele

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### 5. Approval of September 15, 2015 Minutes

N. Joiner

RS: We need to move to approve the September 15, 2015 minutes and I'm going to ask for a motion to do so.

NJ: I move for the minutes from the September 15, 2015 meeting be approved.

VH: I second the motion.

RS: It's been moved by Nedra Joinder to approve the September 15, 2015 board minutes as presented and second by Vincent Hardman. Calling for questions from anyone on those minutes. Hearing no questions, all those in favor show by a set of "I". Response of "I" by all board members.

RS: Any opposed? – no response. The item has been passed. We are now going down to our financial report, and that should be for the month of September, rather than August.

### 6. Financial Report (September 2015)

V. Hardman

- FPA 2015-16 Budget Update
- Account conversions Credit Cards/Signatory

VH: We did not receive the financials until very late. So I did have a conversation with Kristen LeMay, and there are no deviations. The budget is not changing at this point in time. There are no updates to the budget.

RS: The last discussion that Donn and I had, and I know that the budget needs to be revised just a little bit in order to have it approved for updates on several items for the budget for 2015-2016. When might we have that authorized?

DT: We will have the budget amendment ready for the November board meeting. Based on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of school, which was October 5, 2015. We are finalizing numbers with CPS, and once we have those numbers finalized then a person will be able to address the budget.

RS: So just for any idea for the board: Mrs. Brown what is the number we are adjusting on, what's the student count number?

TB: 423 including Pre-K.

RS: So it will be a little lower because Pre-K is how many?

TB: 20.

RS: So 403 is what we will be readjusting our base budget for the academic year. Which could be significant for us. We just need to have a sense of the idea that we need to get this done. Donn will be able to review it and get the updates. The other issue we had, CPS made some adjustments in the beginning of the year with some of the movement of some dollars where they needed to reduce 30% of.

DT: There was a 30% reduction in Title 1 funding. That will change again based on the enrollment, because that enrollment was based on a 450 total enrollment for 2015-2016 school year. If that will change, that will be part of the process. Now what I will do is within the next 48 hours have a conference call with Kristen, perhaps Mr. Hardman you would like to be

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involved to take a look at the timeline, so that we can set some hard dates in order to have the information well in advance of the November board meeting.

VH: Let's just keep in mind that everything right now is contingent on getting the final information from CPS. That's where we are, so that's the wild card right now. I'm hoping that we have something within the next 24-48 hours, and if so then we can develop a hard timeline.

DT: Well we can have a conversation with a person to set our goals and then set our hard timeline.

RS: So there are no outstanding issues with the report that we should be concerned about?

VH: No, everything currently is inline, where it should be about this time. Kristen and I briefly went through the numbers, and there are no deviations and nothing out of the ordinary.

RS: I know there were some credit card changes and we are trying to get Mrs. Brown a credit card for our school and yourself

VH: who is the third person Ms. Williams?

VH: Ms. Williams already has a card. But at this point in time we still need some final information, I think there's one piece I still need from Mrs. Brown and a copy of your

TM: documents.

RS: The signatory cards that were redone for the 4 signatures on the account, were those sent in?

VH: No, we are sending them all together.

RS: So that is what you need from me? Ok, we can get that done today. You can give that to me and I will take it over to our account guy over at the bank, over on Cicero. This way either one of us will be able to have him complete what is needed for our account information. So that is not items 6a & 6b that are resolved. Let's move on to item number 7 Old Business.

### **7. Old Business**

Parent Involvement Initiative

T. Tharpe

Infrastructure Improvements Update

T. Moore

By-Law Correction

R. Steele

RS: The Parent Involvement Initiative, Ms. Tharpe is not here, is there any update to be given?

NJ: I will read the report. The Parent University Café (PUC) will be unveiled on Paragon Night, October 28, 2015. An impromptu parent meeting was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2015 in the PUC and parents expressed an interest in volunteering, starting an FPA Mom support group, and participating in fundraising events. The parent resources program on Wednesday, October 6, 2015, Ms. Tharpe met with Michael Jones from Malcolm X College and completed the onsite profile information interview. If

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FPA becomes an approved site, the GED program and classes can begin as early as January 2016. Monthly parent workshops will begin October 22, 2015, which will be PowerSchool training for parents. November date is TBD, which will include resume writing and basic internet skills. Special Events: October 2, 2015 FPA hosted first Kid's Care Friday (KCF), which was for Breast Cancer Awareness. October 8, 2015 attorney Leslie Davis spoke with students, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, about the importance of use and misuse of social media. October 16<sup>th</sup> FPA students will be presented with an Anti-Bullying Hip Hop play for grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. October 28<sup>th</sup> is the first Paragon Night of the school year. It starts at 6pm and we're all invited.

RS: Does anyone have any questions on this item?

TB: There is a correction to KCF, our first KCF was held on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

RS: I'm going to ask the board to consider one item in regards to our PUC. I'd like to name it after my mom, Bobbie L. Steele, who is the first African American and first woman president of the County Board. The reason I'm asking to that is because there are maybe 400 awards sitting in her house, in the basement area not being utilized. We could use those awards to decorate this room with her awards, and have a place where she could actually come to, with a little pride, and also have pride for our parents that a woman can do this. So I'd like to name this room in honor of her and have her help us to raise money for this room. Because it would be named after her, she would definitely like to see it become a room of very much value. She was a reading teacher, she taught school, and was the first IT teacher at her school as well. She taught 26 years and was actually my second grade teacher when I was in school, but I just think she brings a lot of value to women as a leader and the role that she's played in city and county government. She serves on a variety of committees throughout the city, and I think it would be a great thing to do something to boost the value, and she would come speak the women on occasion. So we can count on her to do that. So, I'm just proposing that to you right now. If you would like to do this now, or we can wait until next month so we can vote on it. After some consideration of it and what it means to us and then make a final vote on it next month if you like. So I'm just sharing it with everybody right now.

TM: May I make a suggestion that we vote on this next month. I think it's a great idea and I would like to get Ms. Tharpe's ideas and opinion on this as well, but I think it's a great idea.

RS: And for those who don't know her name is Bobbie Steele. Bobbie Steele served in public office for 24 years as Cook County Commissioner and then president of the County Board. So she's done some things and the first founder of a preschool program in North Lawndale. The preschool program started by her by the corner of 21<sup>st</sup> and Sacramento, the first youth program for our preschool kids in our community. So you have just a little

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background. Alright thank you guys for your consideration of that and I will bring it in writing, a formal proposal on what that means to us.

RS: Item 7B is Infrastructure Improvements, Tommy any updates from you?

TM: Actually the only update we have right now is FIT Technologies is working on the infrastructure as we speak, they are working through the night to have that completed. They are working on adding new access points, so we will have less dropped signals. They are also working on the email situation. A lot of the things that are in the hanging right now is because of the new infrastructure. The computers received from CPS are contingent upon approval for reimaging for FPA use. Note that at the end of this school year CPS will acquire the computers and place them back into the shared computer lab with Herzl. We will be lacking, at least, 15 desktops that will be crucial for our usage.

RS: How long will we be in that lack phase?

TM: Well, that's why we have to come up with some type of plan. What is going to be our strategy in getting 15 laptops in place for the PUC.

RS: Laptops or desktops?

TM: desktops! And is it the 5<sup>th</sup> grade or 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom?

TB: 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

TM: They currently have 6, I believe. And the others are dispersed in the lab, the technology lab. So we're going to have to come up with some type of plan on how we're going to get those replaced. Yes?

DT: Just for clarification, how many computers are we looking at just for PUC?

TM: Just the 4 that are here. They're just not plugged in.

DT: My thinking is that we can write a grant for PUC computers, and repurpose these. So I'll get with Ms. Tharpe tomorrow.

TM: Ok, these are going to be repurposed anyways next calendar year. When this year ends we are going to be lacking 15 systems.

DT: Should the board approved the naming of PUC in honor of Bobbie Steele that would be a very good opportunity for us to go after some grants.

TM: Yes, and as I've taken a hard look at our inventory, we do need to upgrade all of our hardware. It's very dated. That's one of the things we have to discuss.

RS: But we have an assessment done of all the hardware last year, didn't we?

DT: We have an inventory with that assessment.

RS: OK. If it's passed 5 years of operation, which most of it is.

TM: Oh yes!

RS: We just need to begin to have a recycling opportunity. We should never have things that are more than 3 years old. Everything is changing all the time. So I think by doing such, we keep up with our equipment, but also

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for our licensing for our software as well. That's most important for us to do that, and run the latest software and equipment. Otherwise we are dumping into an old thing that doesn't have the capacity to run this stuff.

TM: Which is what we have been doing. The conversation that I'm having now with FIT and Ms. Gonzalez is that we gotta make sure we have the hardware to situate the software that is coming out. We may be able to go Windows 7 or 8, but this new software requires more than that.

RS: Office 365 is what we're operating on in today's time. That's the newest licensing of materials, and so I know what we got and we can't do it. Let's consider a plan by next meeting on what equipment we need to upgrade. We have a cost here and we need to vote on how to do that.

DT: Part of that should be taking into account how we purchase some student equipment out of our title accounts. Those are some conversations that we can have prior to coming to our next meeting.

RP: <inaudible>

TM: I'm sorry what funding?

RP: E-Rate funding!?

RS: E-Rate funding we haven't utilized in at least 3-4 years here. E-Rate funding is money that comes out of the federal government specifically targeted for hardware for schools like ours. When we first got our equipment it was purchased with E-Rate funding, and so when we were working with Gene and those guys, we got E-Rate funding for several schools in one lump sum and they spread it around to all of our schools and that's how we got our original equipment.

RP: I think we should put together a plan, and I agree with you, that every 3-4 years we should get a technology cycle. We should look at this going forward so we can handle the latest software. One of the advantages with doing it with so many schools at once is purchasing power. So all schools inventory and putting together that plan. So in addition to other funding, there are a lot of grants we can get for this, so we should go hit it all.

TM: Would Ms. Gonzalez still be our key contact on talking about those strategies and initiatives, or what?

RP: I think I'm going to ask (?) to take care of this, our current CIO. We'll put together a plan and Donn will access that.

TM: So how long will it be before we hear back?

RP: I would say that the next board meeting we should have a draft. With an idea of where we're going. And look at all the funds we're not getting or getting, and have good sketch of that.

TM: So for clarity's sake, will that person contact myself or Ms. Gonzalez, or how will we flush this out?

RP: Well how about we text you?

RS: How about this? We will have Donn take the lead on this, since he's the contact for the organization.

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TM: Sound good.

DT: So I will coordinate with Mr. Packard and the school.

TM: Sounds good.

RS: Simply since we're on that item, why don't we talk about smartboards and what we had the discussion on the other day

RP: We have 4 coming. I did the check on that. Because they were ordered in September they are late.

TM: They were in high demand also.

RP: They were and there is big huge... I mean normally we wouldn't be in this situation were we hadn't taken over, we technically haven't officially taken over from Mosaica. I don't think it's limiting the instruction we have going on in the school. When they do come in they will be an enhancement. We know of the 4 coming and eventually we will have

RS: We have 2 here already and we had 18 total to come.

TM: There will be a total of 18 all with new technology and we are talking about gradually phasing them in, so there is no interruption of instructional time.

RS: that's what I shared with Ron when we talked. He wasn't very familiar with..

RP: I think instruction will occur here and that we will be a proper performing school, certainly by the next school year we will be fully integrated. I think that works

RS: If we can target, let's target 4<sup>th</sup> quarter having smartboards throughout the school. If we can target that?

RP: That should be doable.

TB: When are the 4 coming?

RS: The 4 should be coming, they were ordered in September, we are looking for the delivery to be now.

DT: The delivery date we have is November 11<sup>th</sup>

RP: Mid November. I was told the delivery date should be mid November. have ordered them

7c.

RS: I just want to speak on the bylaws correction. At the last board meeting I presented to you 2 changes in the bylaws that we had to make per our reauthorization agreement with CPS: 1. Termination of contract with, to resume our contract with the EMO. All we did was copy the same language you put in the original contract with us and put it into our bylaws. The other was signatories which he(VH) is handling on our checking account So we handed that out for review at the last meeting. All we have to do is approve them since they were handed out at the last meeting. We just need to move forward and add them to the bylaws. Is there a motion to do such?

TM: I motion that we approve the bylaw corrections for FPA.

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RS: Is there a second?

NJ: I second.

RS: It's been move to second that we add the 2 additions that we discussed in the last board meeting to the bylaws. Next board meeting we will bring a copy of the revised, it's called the revision, with a revision date as of October 13, 2015 to the bylaws of those 2 items. All in favor show by the sign of I

All: I.

RS: Any opposed?

No response.

RS: On to the area of new business.

### 8. New Business

#### A. Staffing Updates

D. Tignanelli/T. Brown

RS: Can we get a staffing update?

TB: Yes that is part of my report. We hired Ms. Moore for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We hired Mary Maloney.

TM: No relations.

RS: No relations?

TM: No

TB: We hired Ms. Maloney as our 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. There was a switch in our case manager from Nancy Handwerker to Ms. Latarsha Williams.

RS: Latarsha Williams?

TB: Latarsha Williams. And as you know Ms. DeBoer resigned.

RS: Before you go, because we don't know who these people are. So could you give us a little background on Ms. Moore and Ms. Maloney so I can get some background on them?

TB: Ms. Maloney, she comes from a lot of experience. She has been special teacher, assistant principal, principal, working at the state level. When the state did a lot of cutbacks she was one of the people that got cut and so she had some time to really think about what she wanted to do with the rest of her career. She said that even though she had climbed the success ladder, she really missed having that one on one type of setting with kids. So she is coming to us with a lot of experience, a lot of background. She was able to observe the class, kinda know what the kids needs are. She has really gotten in there and really gotten that class together with that class starting the school year not having a teacher. Ms. Moore is actually a parent who is now our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. Her son is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

RS: Is she certified?

TB: Yes! She is.

TM: Our parents can't be certified?

RS: I mean they can be, but you just don't find a parent walking around with a teaching certificate.

TB: She was at legacy charter school before. Um, was that her last place? She was at Legacy, we actually got a reference from their principal. She's a great 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. Ms. Williams has already been on our staff and she has stepped up to be case manager. So far we have worked together to reorganize the History Maker department making sure our students are getting the minutes that they are

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needing. We are working with CPS but we might need more History Maker teachers.

RS: to that issue that was brought to our attention. Particularly my attention that we didn't have a school psychologist or a school nurse, what are we doing about those 2 things?

TB: Currently our SSA is who we work with through CPS, she's the services administrator. She knows that we weren't able to hire our own clinicians, so you know because of the state they have to provide clinicians to us. So I resubmitted the application on September 30, 2015 saying these are the steps we took trying to hire our own clinicians and we were unable to do so. So they(CPS) have to provide us with psychologists and all the other clinicians needed to make certain those cases remain in compliance.

RS: As long as there's a plan in place to remain in compliance, because I know that can cause us headaches if we don't have those people in place for our students and our families.

I made sure that Ms. Williams, you can look through them if you want, that she is sending those emails weekly on when the cases are due, so make sure you(CPS) is sending those people out here in order to stay in compliance. Our number one goal is to stay in compliance. Those IEP's that don't require those clinicians, we are moving forward with them as scheduled.

NJ: What clinicians are we looking for again?

TB: Psychologist, a nurse, a speech pathologist. All charter schools are to hire their own clinicians and are being pushed thin across the city because CPS does not want to pay for our clinicians. So the state recognizes students as their students so CPS has to make certain to send clinicians when they are required to complete IEP's

VH: What's the disposition if we are replacing Ms. Handwerker with Ms. Williams? Is she(Handwerker) still around?

TB: Yes she is still around. She chose to step down from the position because she felt she couldn't be a good teacher and this case management piece, even with support. She's still around, she's just teaching, well not just teaching because that is the greatest job in the world but her focus is now on teaching.

NJ: What grade level is she teaching?

TB: We just redid the schedules, I believe she is teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

RS: So as a reality for the board to know, salary adjustments? Has anything been done in that area?

TB: No. She was receiving a stipend from CPS for being the case manager.

RS: So she will no longer receive the stipend, that will now go to Ms. Williams?

TB: I did nominate Ms. Williams as our case manager, so CPS now has Ms. Williams as our case manager and she goes to meetings and works with Nancy Bobel, who is our SSA from CPS.

RS: Ok, as long as we're meeting compliances. Thank you for that update. Item number B on the new business. Let's get ahead of planning on our Holiday event for our staff. We kind of waited late last year, so I want to get ahead of schedule on that. I'm looking at a date potentially of December 18, 2015, just before we go on winter break. I'm looking at your schedule to determine if that's a good date or if we should do it earlier.

TB: Actually the Friday before.

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NJ: the 11<sup>th</sup>?

TB: A lot of people go out of town.

RS: I'm sorry?

NJ: A lot of people go home.

TB: A lot of people go out of town.

RS: And that's our punishment to them. LOL!

TB: We looked into a place on Roosevelt and Western. You can bring your own food but you cannot have any libations.

RS: I got a place.

TB: Ok.

RS: And it's close by. I've got a wonderful place close by and it's already been booked. So there's a location at 3023(?) Harrison, right on the same block as the police department. There's a facility that you would never know it's there. I went to a meeting there and they also do trainings, so we could use it for our PD training. It's a beautiful space that this organization that does community programs, has totally rehabbed it's a full bar in there that you can bring your own food, with a refrigerator with tables and chairs, but it's a long space. It's a deep building about 150 feet long that we can utilize that's right across from Heffernan School. Directly in front of their school on Harrison. I can get it very, very cheap for us. Particularly, they like me, so no cost to us. So the 11<sup>th</sup> is what I'll call them tomorrow to book, and all we have to do is bring our food and those kind of things. I have a set of twin bartenders, they are as funny as I don't know what, but they have a bar setup. Let's put together a budget so we can have a discussion about that. Parking and we won't worry too much about security because it's on the same street of the police station. That's a good place to have some fun. We want to have a live band and a DJ there, it could be a lot of fun for us. We'll invite Ron to come back and have a good time with us. So what you need to think about for Mrs. Brown and the school team is how do we exchange our gifts? We normally do grab bag in my office. A limit of \$25 is what I set for my staff. It will be a lot of fun for the staff. Do it early, so after you come back from Thanksgiving you will do the grab bag for all the staff. You will include all the staff, security...everybody is included as a family here. I suggest that everybody on your payroll is included. You can include the board on that if you like. We can participate.

TM: We're not on the payroll.

NJ: Right, you said everyone on the payroll.

RS: Yeah you are. You're on volunteer payroll. LOL.

B. EMO Introduction

R. Packard

RS: Let's go to the Ron Packard show.

RP: I don't know how much of a show it is. Thank you for having me here, it's a pleasure to be here. I'm the CFO of Pansophic Learning, owner of Accel Schools. Which will eventually be the managing school once CPS approves it.

RS: To that point let me share with you. I had our attorney talk to CPS today, and he should give me a response back tomorrow as to their slowness and why they are moving so slow through this process. So Curtis Tarver, our attorney has called the school on that issue. I sent him a note this morning to make sure he follows up with them. We also talked about

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the reauthorization agreement that he could sign to make sure that they are approving our reauthorization to be in relationship with our EMO. And they have to approve that. We've both been sending documents to CPS for the past month to finalize that agreement, and that we are in agreement for what we want to do, so now it's up to CPS and their attorney to sign off on that and make sure that we have the right authorization moving forward. So that's where it stands.

RP: For those of you that don't know, I founded a company called K12, one of the largest managers of charter schools, mostly online charter schools in the country. I also wrote a book called Education Transformation, which I'll bring to the next meeting and we can give to all the board members. Our vision here, my experience with K12 where we did primarily online schools. We did the Chicago Virtual Charter School, for those of you might know that, is a pretty respected school in the city. Well we kept having tremendous success every time we worked with brick and mortar schools. We worked in schools within some of the worst economic areas in the country. So I left K12 and started a new company, and the idea was to work more in the brick and mortar schools. Hopefully to use technology to improve student learning. Our goal is very simple, we want to work with boards to produce top performing schools. That's it!. We want to give the boards the school they want. This neighborhood and this school should be a top performing tier 1 school, and that's our goal. We will get there. There will be no lack of effort, no lack of commitment. This school is very important to me personally. You will get a lot more time than some of our other schools. We went from a few schools in the Middle East to now 30 schools in the United States, all within the last 90 days. I have a son who lives in Chicago, so I love to come here. I think that having a high performing school in the central city of Chicago will be very advantageous. So it's more than just a passing interest. I love kids and believe all kids should be able to learn. I don't believe there's ever an excuse to hide behind the plumbing. It doesn't mean they will all get there immediately, but we will get there. What does that take? What it will require is a great instructional model which I think we're bringing into this school: Great leadership: you know new Head of School here, we think it's going to go a long way. Making sure we have a great trainer, and a great teacher in every classroom. If you have that, it's never the kid's fault, it's always the adult's fault. So the key is to have a great leader and great teacher in every classroom and put in the right instructional model. We know what great schools are, we've been involved throughout our lifetime. We want what you want. Mr. Steele knows, I'm very responsive, call me weekends, call me at night. You can call me at any hour and I will probably get back to within 24 hours. Sometimes I'm out of the country, but I will always get back to you. We are looking forward to working with you to make this the best school in Chicago. A school that all of us would be proud to be associated with. When CPS looks at charter school, we want them to say, "Wow, that's a great school. To also keep in touch with the local community. I love PUC. When schools get good, they become beacons of the community, hubs for that community. That's what great

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schools do. The first brick and mortar school I started was in Philadelphia and it literally changed the community. All of a sudden there was a lot of mobility and people stopped moving out of the area. They did whatever they could to stay in the area because there was a great school there. I think schools can change communities, they can be an important part of the community. That's what we would like to have here. So I'm thinking how we can do adult education. I'm very excited and I will be accessible to all the board members and I will be responsive. If there is ever a problem here we will be on it. It's been a pleasure already working with you all. I think we have the trainer issue worked out. Thank you.

RS: If I can Ron, let me give you a couple things that my board has an interest in, and you need to be aware of some things that have not been shared with you just yet. One thing is that is primary interest to us to have our own campus. We would love to have our own campus. We are in a shared environment, we started out in a shared environment it works well/ok for us right now but we'd like to have our own school campus so we can grow the volume of activity in that facility. I've talked to CPS, we know that they have several closed buildings right now, but they don't want to put charter schools in those buildings right now. It kind of defeats the purpose of them closing the buildings in some of the under performing schools, and they don't want to bring it back to a charter school at this point. I'm letting it go another year, possibly another 6 months before we make a hard pitch. There are 3 local schools in the area that are closed that can be great campuses to us that are not very far from where we are. Patoriski is one, on 22<sup>nd</sup> and Lawndale. There's one off Western and Adams, closed campus but a nice environment there. We can get the locations. So there are 3 locations that are very close to us that we can have our own campus environment. That would be something of interest to us that we would like to do within the next school year. So I'm sharing that with you.

RP: That's great, I love that.

RS: Another important thing to us is the type of school environment we are. We like to go to a STEAM school future, moving forward. We know this school year is just to get our grade levels to move to a different level, but that Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and I'd like to add Agriculture. I just did a project with a young guy on the other side of town who is doing a STEAM school and he had Arts/Agriculture and Math. This is way of infusing some new training for our kids. We almost did a garden at the old campus, we got some funding for a garden project, but we just couldn't get out and do the project. That could be another portion of our learning with agriculture portion of that, and I have someone that could teach it to us who is actually a Doctor. He's a Cornell graduate, a University of Chicago graduate who teaches at Chicago State who wants to do that on the West Side and we're his campus.

RP: Well, I think that's fantastic. We love STEM, we love STEAM, and we are happy to move in that direction once we get the academic level where it needs to be. The agriculture is really interesting. One of the things that

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makes this really unique is that we will never compromise the academic standards. We want to have 100% of the kids proficient in math and language arts. Within that we want to work with the boards to customize the schools to your particular desires. If that's STEM or STEAM, if that's agriculture and an adult learning center for the community, that's the partnership that we want to help deliver.

RS: Well just to your point you just made, the agriculture portion is for adults and youth. So here's the foundation, I have one of the books they produced. This is what it means for a kids to be totally involved with the program. He grows 4 acres that goes into the restaurants at Sox park. He makes sure the kids are engaged. He took an old, abandoned house and fixed it up and teaches cooking in there now. The kids do all the work in the building. He is now taking pallets and making furniture with the kids.

RP: One of the things I would like to do over the next year, it won't happen in a month, as we talk about a new facility is to build a strategic plan for the school.

RS: We did one 3 years ago, for a 5 year plan for the school. We weren't able to implement it. We can actually get an electronic copy to you tonight.

RP: That would be great. In the spring we could revisit that and say here's our 3 year strategic plan of what the school will become. That would be a new facility, moving in the STEAM program with agriculture. That's the direction we want to move and I love it. I think that's great.

RS: So last part of the surprise to you is that we've talked about this as a board, and we would like to create a high school to go into. So our kids can continue their education in the same type of educational environment that they started here. We can make that 4 years most productive for them to get to college. That is something we would like to consider 2-3 years down the line, nothing immediately, is to work on getting a high school.

RP: I think that once the school hits top tier, CPS will be incredibly enthusiastic to have us have a high school associated to it. When they see the school academically performing, they need all the high schools they can get in Chicago.

VH: Just one other thing: in terms of the transitioning, in terms of the branding of the school where we're taking out the Mosaica name and putting in Accel names. How is that coming along? We still get some emails where people are still referring to Mosaica, I believe there's some other documentation too. So how is that transition coming along?

RP: We're working on that. It takes a while for us to clear and change it, so I'm guessing that by January that should all be gone away and completely on to Accel Schools.

RS: We have not done a public announcement of our relationship with EMO and those kinds of things. Once you've done that, we would like to say that there's a new organizational management company that we are working with, and do a public announcement to make sure the public knows how we are working our relationship moving forward. Once you've done that please confirm that with us.

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RS: Alright, Thank you Ron on your reports and how we're doing on the management side. We really look forward to a happier future than what we've had over the past 2 years. It hasn't been all that bad, but it hasn't been the greatest. It's really all about our kids, we as a board want to see our kids progress in the right way and get the best opportunities for their secondary education. That's simply what we want.

RP: That's what we want too. All I ask is that you tell us what we're not doing.

### C. Head of School Report

T. Brown

RS: Alright, we're at the Head of School Report, let's go Mrs. Brown.

TB: Good evening. Some events: we had our first 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent night on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. It was really good turnout, with at least 90% of the 8<sup>th</sup> grades parents participation. We set some expectations over some housekeeping things, but also equally important we talked about the transition plan for getting our kids into some of the top high schools in Chicago. From Ms. Tharpe: students have already received letters for schools in which they are eligible for, and working with individual students and families with helping them get through the application process. Constitution test for 7<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Open House for selective enrollment schools has begun. Testing for selective enrollment schools has begun. Students have received their CPS pin numbers for selective enrollment schools. Student issue for Ivana Hill. She was left at school until 8pm. Current recommendation is to have her attend a different school if tardiness continues. Issues with Aramark and the cleanliness of our side of the school. I feel there is a difference in how Aramark cleans Herzl vs how they clean our school. They seem to pay more attention to Herzl as opposed to us. I have had several conversations with Bryan, the Aramark manager over our school, we have documented the cleanliness and conditions of several areas of the school that need to be addressed. Measurements have been taken to install lockers for our middle school grade levels. Waiting for confirmation/approval from CPS. Bed bug concern. Law department of CPS and building engineer have been informed of classrooms where bed bugs have been found. Medical Compliance: Current grade of F. 126 students left to complete. 26% non-compliant. Ms. Rodriguez is working to enter medical data into SIM as current physicals and immunization records are received.

### VP/DEAN of Academics

C. Roldan

Report not read.

#### 1. Dean of Students

T. Lang

Currently completing Tiered Intervention for behavior issues for our scholars. Power point presentation viewed as report was read. Additional information on how teachers are to implement behavior redirection in classroom to be discussed during next professional development day.

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### D. RVP Report

D. Tignanelli

We are working to be a Data driven school. There have been moves made in order to obtain information about each student regarding individual data information. Ms. Roldan and Mr. Tignanelli are working together to compile the data for each student. We have 80 transfer in students. 45% of these students are performing on the lowest quartile in Math and 36% are performing in the lowest quartile in reading. The bulk of our transfers are in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level. We will continue to implement using data walls in each classroom in order to track per classroom.

### 9. Announcements

730am Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> board would like to present to our staff

8:00pm Call to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:05

*Next School Board meeting is November 10, 2015*