

**City Academy Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

Members Present: Erik Bengtzen, Stephen Foxley, Mary Glauser, Nathan Seim, Kelle Smart, Taylor Woodbury (by phone)

Staff Present: Gareth Orr, Sonia Woodbury

Excused: Larry Hintze, Walker Kennedy, Nikki Gabriel, Ram Prasad Boppana

Welcome: Stephen opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comment: none

Financial Report: tabled until January

Approval of Minutes: Mary made a motion to approve the October minutes as presented, Kelle seconded, and all were in favor.

Director's Report:

- Our new roof and HVAC system have now been installed. We are working with our landlords to amortize the cost over the terms of our lease.

- Enrollment update. We currently have 145 students enrolled, there were 148 on Oct. 1. The Board discussed current enrollment and efforts towards increasing enrollment for next year.

- Sonia reminded the Board about Board support needed for raising money for our Program Quality Enhancement (PQE) matching grant of \$15,625 that helps fund our extended day programs – Theatre, Sports, Extended Day Study, Science Olympiad Team, etc. More donations from parents have been coming in, a PSO restaurant give back event is planned for February, and the pickleball tournament in May are still coming.

Sonia will have an updated accounting of donations collected and expected in January

- The Board discussed current policy and several proposals for new policy concerning paid leave for salaried teachers.

The Board raised issues of wanting to retain teachers and raise salaries. The Board directed Sonia to develop a plan that rewarded attendance rather than penalizing absences.

The Board will reconsider a new policy proposal in January.

Mission, Vision, & Strategic Growth

- Sonia reviewed her meeting October 25 with Jennifer Lambert at the USBE about City Academy's current position with enrollment and plans for next year concerning enrollment and school development.

- Gareth talked about need for our branding to be clear about city and issues-based learning. Gareth reviewed progress with our planning for school development and changes for next year.

Taylor made a motion of support, Kelle seconded, and all were in favor of the path Sonia and Gareth have outlined for evolving how we deliver our mission at City Academy. This to include:

- A different approach to the schedule of the school day and implementing more flexibility especially for HS students in their pathway to graduation to allow us to better fulfill our mission of personalization.
- Civic, City, and Current Issues, Service Learning, and our Advisory program remain at the heart of our work with students.
- Continuing and further developing our distinctive investigative approach to learning with a core of compelling classes in Social Studies, English, and Science connected to our civic mission and helping connect student learning across the subject areas. This helps better fulfill our mission of preparing responsible, involved, informed citizens.
- More utilization of our partnership with GMS and other community resources to broaden opportunities for student learning.
- More efficient use of faculty time and payroll budget. This will likely include a reduction in full-time teachers.
- Reconfiguring the first floor of our building into collaborative spaces with breakout rooms.

The Board will review our new digital vendor for online curriculum for approval at the January meeting.

Kelle talked about need to have our name and tag line say what we do. Something like “City Academy: Personalized Pathways for Success”. We will keep working on this.

Adjournment: Erik made a motion to close the meeting, Kelle seconded, and all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

DATED the 20th day of November, 2019 CITY ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: Sonia Woodbury

APPROVED the 15th day of January, 2020 CITY ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

For audio file of meeting minutes click [here](#)