

Vanguard Classical School (VCS)  
Board of Directors' Meeting

Thursday, September 28, 2017

4:30 PM

Vanguard East Campus

MINUTES

Attendance

Board Members: Sherry Eastlund, Judy Ham, Sonja Herrera, Chris Jensen, Lisa Sagaser  
Staff: Syed Ahmed, Peggy Downs, Angela Keedy, Judy Trimble

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Board Chair, Judith Ham.  
The pledge of allegiance and roll call took place.

Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the September 28, 2017 Agenda was made by Sherry Eastlund, seconded by Lisa Sagaser and passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes

VCS Board Meeting minutes for September 6, 2017 were reviewed, and a motion to approve them was made by Sherry Eastlund, seconded by Chris Jensen and passed unanimously.

Board President Report

Judy Ham announced that the FYE 2017 VCS Audit was completed and shared copies with Board members. She noted that discussion would take place with Syed Ahmed during the Financial Report. ACCO is proceeding with refinancing the bonds, and there may be some opportunity to make some improvements at East. She commented on the positive reactions of students that she had questioned about what they had learned today in school and confirmed our commitment to positive outcomes for children in schools.

Currently, we are not hearing much about increases in the PPOR, but districts are required to share their mill levy funds with charter schools now. Public schools are not required to pay building expenses out of their PPOR, whereas charter schools are. Mill levy funds pay for operations, while bond funds are for physical improvements. Buildings are not paid for by the school district unless the school receives bond funding. We have a positive relationship with APS, and the League of Charter Schools consistently advocates for all charter schools.

The Board talked briefly about increasing the number of school board members, which is currently a minimum of 5, but can increase up to nine. It was suggested that the board have 2 parents from each school.

Judy mentioned that West is hosting Cross Country Meets for all charter schools in the league. Directors mentioned there have been two mile long meets in the last few weeks with 13 schools in attendance. West has 3 runners participating; all finished in the top half. The next two meets in the next two weeks will be 2 miles long.

Financial Report

Syed Ahmed discussed and explained the 2017 FYE VCS Audit, which is combined for both schools and has been submitted to APS. He highlighted several pages, one where auditors' findings regarding improvements needed were listed (we had none); one which shows financial progress, increasing revenues by \$600,000; one which lists liabilities, mainly due to the required PERA pension liability; one comparing budget to actual and he commented that we ended the year close to budget. Judy Ham noted that there remain financial items over which we have no control, such as the SPED reimbursement, the effect of the Read Act and a few others.

After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Chris Jensen and seconded by Sonja Herrera for the VCS Board to accept the FYE 2017 VCS Audit as presented. It passed unanimously.

Once Board members have completed CDE's Financial Module, a financial work session with the CPA will be scheduled.

### Directors' Reports

East and West's Fall Festivals were very successful, both from a fund raising and an enrollment perspective.

East:

#### *Parent Communication*

A very successful "Coffee with Principals" was held for parents to learn more about Vanguard. It was a great, positive, relaxed, experience for 8-10 parents who attended. Many questions were answered and parents offered to help. Starbuck's donated coffee.

#### *Aurora Public Schools Business:*

Peggy Downs met with our APS representative, Mackenzie Stauffer, with representative Principals from both schools. Mackenzie informed us that she was editing and renaming the Annual Performance Framework, now renamed the Annual APS Evaluation Report and that it was still in draft form. She noted that she is available to meet with all schools regarding the Annual APS Evaluation Report, when complete. Mackenzie was very positive about VCS and congratulated us on assessment scores. She mentioned two areas, which were "approaching"...one was enrollment, because we did not meet the enrollment budget, which was 95% or better on October 1, as we came in at 93%. This is a new benchmark introduced this year. Mackenzie is recommending an allowance of 10% in meeting enrollment budgets in the future.

#### *Conference and Research Report*

Angie Keedy attended several conferences since last meeting and reported that two waivers are no longer automatic, but most still are. The VCS Charter Renewal Application is due October 6, 2017, and will be reviewed by the APS Board of Directors on December 5, 2017. She also received information regarding the recent Supreme Court ruling. She researched the recent Reach Charter accepted by APS, as they are the only other inclusive charter school in Aurora, and our charter may reflect some relevant recommended changes, as a result. Also, due to receiving our recent CDE Grant, our East Social Worker started today. Angie spoke recently with former recipients of the same CDE grant and obtained best practices, which they felt impacted their success with it.

#### *Assessments*

MAPS and STAR Fall testing are complete and teachers have reviewed the data and have planned their instruction accordingly. NWEA Fall Reading and Math MAPs are complete. Assessment results will be reported next meeting. Average scores on SAT for combined schools were 911.6 with the District Average at 892 FYE 2017.

#### *Enrollment*

Currently, there are 508 students enrolled at VCS West and 744 students at VCS East. It was noted that East's capacity is 900-950.

#### *VCS Strategic Plan*

Directors distributed the revised 2018-2015 VCS Strategic Plan and noted that, although an internal document, it guides our charter schools, as it resonates what we expect our schools to accomplish. There was some discussion regarding minor revisions to the Mission Statement and suggestions were made. It was also noted that the vision statement should reflect how our organization will "rise above." Finally, some numbers were revised to reflect realistic achievements, and primary board responsibilities will be to monitor the outcomes on the plan.

#### *APS Charter Renewal*

Peggy Downs and Angie Keedy distributed and discussed the 2017-2018 Revised Charter School Renewal Application. Board members were asked to review them and provide any additional suggestions for changes or additions. Noted were there were some changes in numbers to more realistically reflect accomplishments. To allow time for board members to thoroughly review the final renewal document, it was decided to do a formal vote by proxy over e-mail prior to uploading it to APS next Thursday.

***Other***

It was noted that 25 different languages are spoken by students at both schools.

It is possible that Read Act funds could possibly help to pay for unfunded kindergarten students.

It was noted that English Language Arts (ELA) terminology may be changed to Culturally Linguistic Diverse (CLD).

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

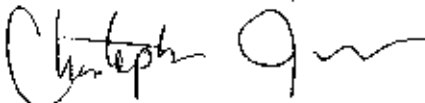
**Next Meeting**

Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 4:30 PM in the East Campus Large Conference Room.

**Adjournment**

All business being concluded, a motion was made by Lisa Sagaser, seconded by Sonja Herrera to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chris Jensen, Secretary