

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2020

6:00 PM

Christopher House Administrative Offices

1611 W. Division Street, Suite 207

Chicago, IL 60622

Board Members Present: Ronit Barrett, Stacey Blasko, Rob Buono, Jessica Cardoni, Dee Dee Chesley, Roberto Interiano, Kenneth Langston, Thomas O'Neill, Stephen Raquet, Gregory Spitzer, Lizzy Whitehorn

Board Members Attending by Phone: David Rodin

Board Members Absent: Rolando Acosta, Adnan Assad, JoAnne Cicchelli, Jeff Kemerley, Dan Lynch, Stu Reed, Homero Tristan, Kimberly White, Thomas Woodrow

Christopher House Staff Present: Lori Baas, Michelle Correa, Julie Dakers, Gloria Kuechenberg, Karen Ross-Williams, Libby Shortenhaus, Traci Stanley, Katheryn Steward

Guests Present: Lauren Long, Ken Jenero, Allison Slade

Minutes Recorder: Christina Henneuse

Proceedings

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM

Welcome, presented by Dee Dee Chesley and Lori Baas

There are a few guests in attendance at tonight's meeting including Michelle Correa, Christopher House's Middle School Counselor, Lauren Long, a prospective board member, Ken Jenero of Holland & Knight, and Allison Slade from Stean's Family Foundation. Dee Dee asks all board members and Christopher House staff in attendance to introduce themselves.

Minutes and Consent Agenda, presented by Dee Dee Chesley and Katheryn Steward

Motion made by Stephen Raquet, seconded by Roberto Interiano and carried unanimously to approve the November 13, 2019 Board of Directors meeting minutes.

There are three items on the consent agenda that require board approval:

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Approved by the Board of Directors 3/18/2020

1. DFSS application for slot reallocation relinquishing 50 head start slots that we will not be able to enroll and shifting Early Head Start slots between the sites.
2. FY20 Early Head Start Initial Grant Budget.
3. August and November 2019 Parent Policy Council minutes.

Motion made by Ronit Barrett, seconded by Stephen Raquet and carried unanimously to approve the three consent agenda items.

CEO Report, presented by Lori Baas, Michelle Correa, Ken Jenero and Allison Slade

March 4, 2020 has been confirmed for the Dedication Ceremony of the JoAnne L. Cicchelli Middle School. Mayor Lori Lightfoot will be the special guest at the ceremony. All board members are invited to attend.

Michelle Correa is the former Bilingual Coordinator and current Middle School Counselor at Christopher House Elementary School. Michelle is committed to preparing Christopher House scholars for high school and beyond by focusing on social-emotional, academic and postsecondary domains when she counsels students.

Through partnerships with organizations such as Schools that Can, Dream on Education and High Jump, Christopher House is providing scholars with opportunities to build a community of support among their peers. In addition, 6th and 7th graders have been provided with opportunities to attend high school and college fairs so they can familiarize themselves with programs and resources beyond middle school.

Michelle shares with the board a few online tools and worksheets that help scholars find their best fit high school and subject areas of interest based on test scores.

Lori shared the importance of continuing to engage staff, families, our parent councils and board members in a collaboration that advances our ability to close the opportunity gap for at-risk children through our innovative and flexible model. There was a discussion of opportunities and threats to delivering on Christopher House's mission and vision.

External Affairs Report, presented by Lizzy Whitehorn and Libby Shortenhaus

There are currently 4 people serving on the auction committee for this year's Annual Benefit: Stacey Blasko, Jessica Cardoni, Kelly Paulker and Shiloh Raquet.

Support from the board is needed to secure live auction items in the area of travel, sports, arts and food. In addition to the listing of sponsorship levels for this this year's benefit, the board is provided with their contact list for review.

External Affairs is currently working with Monday Loves You to relaunch the Christopher House website in March.

External Affairs is conducting a search for an Associate Director of Development. Meaghan will share the position posting with board members to help source qualified candidates.

Christopher House has employed C-Strategies to lead public relations and thought leadership opportunities. Upcoming opportunities include an article in Principal Magazine, a webinar series through the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities and a mentoring opportunity with SXSW.

A review of the private philanthropy dashboard shows that 44% of the institutional giving budget has been raised, 59% of the individual giving budget has been raised, and 61% of the religious budget has been raised. The team continues to prospect for new institutional gifts in FY20, but the projects are lower given the booking of multi-year grants in FY18 and FY19. Christopher House expects to book at least 3 large multi-year grants in FY21.

Board Development Report, presented by Ronit Barrett and Libby Shortenhaus

The board governance manual is undergoing revisions. Libby provides the board with a resource guide for review based on “The Principles of Governance That Power Exceptional Boards” from Board Source. Christopher House provided a couple of the Board Source best practice research to each board member. The priorities of the review include culture of inquiry, sustaining resources, compliance with integrity and revitalization.

Strategic Task Force, presented by Traci Stanley and Kenny Langston

The FY16-19 strategic scorecard shows that Christopher House has met three of the four strategic priorities: increasing revenue, expanding impact of children and families, and establishing Christopher House as a thought leader.

The Strategic Task Force continues to work with staff leadership to implement and measure impact on our three strategic priorities. The task force will have a recommendation for growing Christopher House’s impact by the May 2020 board meeting.

Finance Committee Report, presented by Stephen Raquet

Christopher House currently has an operating deficit which is not unusual for this time of year. The operating deficit is lower than budgeted. FY20 has had significant non-operating transactions from the New Markets Tax Credits, the capital campaign and a one-time investment from the Presbytery of Chicago. These transactions significantly impact our financials.

Other Business:

Motion made by Lizzy Whitehorn and seconded by Roberto Interiano to elect Lauren Long to the Christopher House Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comments were made at this meeting.

Motion made by Lizzy Whitehorn, seconded by Rob Buono and carried unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to review FY2020 CEO performance metrics.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM