

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

August 6, 2020 at 6:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting, Hosted Over Conference Call

**Board Members Attending by Phone:** Adnan Assad, Ronit Barrett, Stacey Blasko, Rob Buono, Jessica Cardoni, Dee Dee Chesley, Jeff Kemerley, Kenneth Langston, Lauren Long, Joel Lozada, Dan Lynch, Thomas O'Neill, Stephen Raquet, Dave Rodin, Gregory Spitzer, Homero Tristan, Lizzy Whitehorn, Thomas Woodrow

**Board Members Absent:** Rolando Acosta, JoAnne Cicchelli, Verenise Franco, Roberto Interiano,

**Christopher House Staff Attending by Phone:** Meaghan Jennings, Gloria Kuechenberg, Loren Myers, Krissy Novy, Laura Pietrini, Karen Ross-Williams, Becky Seibel, Libby Shortenhaus, Traci Stanley, Katheryn Steward, Ashley Vuu

**Minutes Recorder:** Christina Henneuse

**Proceedings:** Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM

**Welcome,** Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Dee Dee begins the meeting by welcoming all board members and Christopher House staff who have virtually joined the meeting.

Dee Dee welcomes staff member Loren Myers who is joining tonight's meeting to observe and learn more about the board process.

**Minutes,** Motion was made by Stephen Raquet, seconded by Dave Rodin, and carried unanimously to approve the July 22 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Stephen Raquet, seconded by Adnan Assad, and carried unanimously to approve the July 31, 12 PM Emergency Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Jeff Kemerley, seconded by Stephen Raquet, and carried unanimously to approve the July 31, 1 PM Emergency Board Meeting Minutes.

**Consent Agenda,** Presented by Katheryn Steward

There was one item on the consent agenda that required board approval:

1. FY21 Head Start and Early Head Start continuation grant applications

Motion was made by Rob Buono, seconded by Adnan Assad, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

**School Updates**, Presented by Katheryn Steward, Traci Stanley and Becky Seibel

After the July 13 reopening for early education and school age, Christopher House has decided to move schools to virtual learning services.

The Governor's reopening plan allows childcare centers and schools to operate at a limited capacity with guidelines to help keep children and staff safe. Throughout Chicago many preschools are continuing to operate and offer childcare to families. On August 5<sup>th</sup> Mayor Lightfoot announced CPS' decision to provide virtual education (including pre-k programs) through November 9<sup>th</sup>. Chicago Department of Public Health supports CPS' decision but has not changed their guidelines for childcare centers.

EHS funding does support virtual services and DFSS announced they will extend funding flexibility through the fall for preschool. Christopher House is working to respond to inquiries from DFSS regarding our virtual learning and re-opening plans.

Childcare will not pay for virtual services for After School or extended full day for early childhood. After school relies on this funding so the fiscal team will continue to monitor. Funding is stable for the moment and the PPP funds will assist with paying staff salaries.

Christopher House leadership has surveyed staff and parents through townhalls, surveys, open office hours, and emails. The top concerns were related to health and safety and continued closures. Another area of concern is improving virtual services. Overall staff and parents believe we have effectively communicated CDC and CDPH compliance but lacked monitoring systems once staff and parents were onsite.

75% of staff and 63% of parents support remote learning in the fall. Christopher House Elementary School's final plan for fall will be presented to parents on 8/17 at the meet and greet. The first day of class will be 8/24.

**Proposed Plan for Board Approval**

The leadership team proposes that all schools offer remote learning through 11/9. For the remainder of August we aim to focus on improving virtual learning and share an update with the board at the September meeting. In September we anticipate creating a more thoughtful reopening plan that engages staff in the process.

When the leadership team begins plans for reopening in September they will consider three key factors: safety, communication and equality. The leadership has plans to enhance monitoring systems, explore incentive pay for onsite staff and provide weekly check-ins with managers with bi-weekly communication from the leadership team.

Motion made by Ronit Barrett and seconded by Stacey Blasko, and carried unanimously to approve the proposed school plan for fall.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was made

Motion made by Dave Rodin and seconded by Ronit Barrett, and carried unanimously to adjourn the board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.