

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

June 5, 2024 at 6PM  
Logan Square Campus  
3255 W. Altgeld Street, Chicago IL 60647

**Board Members Attending In-Person:** Jessica Cardoni, Dee Dee Chesley, Roberto Interiano, Carlos Pineiro, Meghan Kiesel, Lauren Long, Candace Williams

**Board Members Attending via Microsoft Teams:** Rolando Acosta, Ronit Barrett, Jeff Kemerley, Kenny Langston, Alex Maturi, Liam O’Kane, Angela Igbineweka-Obaseki, Justin Orr, Homero Tristian, Kim White

**Guests in attendance:** Justin Orr (virtual), Jordan Reece (in-person)

**Board Members Absent:** Adnan Assad, Stacey Blasko, Steve Raquet

**Christopher House Staff Attending:** Julie Dakers, Becky Seibel, Traci Stanley, Libby Shortenhaus, Ricardo Villalobos, Karen Ross-Williams, Chanel Wiley

**Quorum Met.**

**Minutes Recorder:** Chanel Wiley

**Proceedings:** Meeting called to order at 6:10PM

**Welcome,** Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Dee Dee Chesley called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members. She introduced Justin Orr, board candidate and an Associate from Paul Hastings as a virtual guest.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

We have one person for public comment, Jordan Reece, Middle School ELA Teacher.

Jordan Reece, Middle School ELA Teacher, discussed the recent change in the upcoming school year, in which the elementary school is closing 5 positions next school year – which are our two-student assistants, two floater teachers and academic interventionist. Jordan shared the impact of staffing changes on the school community from the teacher’s perspective. Jordan shared that from the Union’s perspective, the positions are necessary, and layoffs should not occur.

**Minutes and Consent Agenda,** Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Motion was made by Dee Dee Chesley seconded by Meghan Kiesel, and carried unanimously to approve the March 6, 2024, and May 21, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.

**President's Report**, Presented by Julie Dakers, Karen Ross-Williams, Sarah Collentine, Bernie Loyola, and Brian Corley, Single Story

Julie Dakers, President, introduce Early Childhood staff member, Karen Ross-Williams, Director of Early Childhood and Youth Development. Karen shared a testimonial from one of our Lead Pre-K teachers at our Stewart Campus, highlighting Christopher House's strengths but also the impact of the teacher shortage and increased diverse learning need on our classrooms. Karen mentions the "secret sauce" of training our early childhood teachers and students: Tenure of Early Childhood Leadership, Certified Lead Pre-K teachers. Parent Partnerships, Individualized Support, A Sense of Belonging.

Bernadette Loyola, Associate Director of Curriculum and Instruction, spoke briefly about the Classroom Assessment Scoring System. While her colleague, Sarah Collentine, Associate Director of Early Childhood, discusses CLASS Spring 2024 Average Scores and Kindergarten Matrix. Sarah spoke briefly on the new upcoming Summer Bridge program this year, collaborating between ECYD and CHES for five weeks, children will receive daily instruction and support from Monday to Thursday on Social emotional, Math, Literacy, Problem-solving, Fine motor skills.

Julie Dakers, President, introduced Single Story Inc. We are in our second year of engagement with Brian Corley, Founder, who presented an overview of the educational market and what is the vision for Christopher House moving forward in the upcoming school year. Brian spoke on the characteristics of a thriving school including: an effectiveness leadership team, the organization's systems and structures, demonstrating a deep understanding of child development practices, and examining student data and achievement to support student learning and growth. Julie Dakers, President, concluded the presentation with an update on the school leader search which will focus on two hires, one to oversee K-4 and one to oversee 5-8. Hires are anticipated by end of June.

**DBEIJ Task Force**, Presented by Alex Maturi

Alex shared that a board survey and questionnaire will be circulated to the Board of Directors in advance of the upcoming board retreat. The request of the board is to please take time to fill out the questionnaire and to block out time for the upcoming board retreat, October 26 from 9am – 1:30pm.

**External Affairs**, Presented by Jeff Kemerley

Jeff discussed the Annual Benefit this year and thanked everyone on the board and the CH members. Jeff spoke briefly on the Benefit Revenue Dashboard and how we met our goals overall in the amount of net contribution from the board, raising more and spending less in event costs than last year; however still falling just shy of our \$500K goal. Jeff discussed that the team wants to improve the sponsorship levels for next year, as well as the private revenue for the full year, the foundation and corporation has over delivered this year, where next year there may be some difficulties, but we had a great year and looking forward to repeating and move forward.

**Finance Committee**, Presented by Becky Seibel, COO

Becky Seibel, COO, discussed continued delays in early childhood contract funds, however steady payment from CPS. Julie Dakers, President, discuss enrollment as an opportunity to increase revenue, ensuring we retain students and maximize our wait list.

Becky discusses updates on our loan status with Old National Bank. We are expecting a resolution in the upcoming weeks, the intent is to meet CPS financial indicators. The finance committee and emeritus board have been working closely with each other towards a resolution before the fiscal year. Becky gave a brief overview of the projected FY25 budget and additional plans to minimize an existing deficit. The Finance committee requested additional action plans and timelines to be executed in FY25 before approval. The Finance Committee will present an updated FY25 Budget in the upcoming weeks – we'll schedule a special board meeting in July for review and approval.

Motion was made by Dee Dee Chesley, seconded by Roberto Interiano and carried unanimously for the board to go into closed session.

Motion made by Lauren Long, seconded by Roberto Interiano and carried unanimously to appoint Justin Orr to the Christopher House Board of Directors.

Motion made by Meghan Keisel, seconded by Jessica Cardoni and carried unanimously to close the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28.