

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

September 11, 2024, at 4PM
Logan Square Campus
3255 W. Altgeld Street, Chicago IL 60647

Board Members Attending In-Person: Rolando Acosta, Dee Dee Chesley, Jessica Cardoni, Lauren Long, Carlos Pineiro, Angela Igbineweka-Obaseki, Kim White

Board Members Attending via Microsoft Teams: Ronit Barrett, Jeff Kemerley (traveling for work), Kenneth Langston (traveling for work), Alex Maturi, Justin Orr (traveling work).

Board Members Absent: Adnan Assad, Stacey Blasko, Roberto Interiano, Meghan Kiesel, Liam O’Kane, Steve Raquet, Homero Tristian, Candace Williams

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

Quorum Met.

Minutes Recorder: Chanel Wiley

Proceedings: Meeting called to order at 4:30PM

Welcome, Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Dee Dee Chesley called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no one present to make public comment.

Minutes and Consent Agenda, Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Motion was made by Dee Dee Chesley seconded by Lauren Long and carried unanimously to approve the May 21, 2024, amended Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Dee Dee Chesley seconded by Lauren Long and carried unanimously to approve the July 17, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.

Officer & Board Member Elections, Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Dee Dee Chesley thanked those who have served as Officers and Members of the Board of Directors who will not be renewing their terms. Dee Dee thanked Stacey Blasko, Steve Raquet and

Kenny Langston for their service to Christopher House as a member of the Board of Directors over the past few years.

The Officers of the Executive Committee of the Board will continue as below through September 2025.

- Dee Dee Chesley as President
- Jeff Kemerley as Vice President
- Adnan Assad as Treasurer
- Ronit Barrett as Secretary

Motion was made by Dee Dee Chesley, seconded by Carlos Pineiro and carried unanimously for the re-election of board terms Meghan Kiesel, Alex Maturi, and Kim White, to the board for a new term September 2024- September 2027.

CEO Report, Presented by Julie Dakers

Julie Dakers, CEO, discussed the FY24-FY27 Strategic Vision and Priorities for this upcoming school year. Julie briefly went over Christopher House's five-year vision for our scholars to achieve the highest levels of academic and social emotional excellence than ever before because of equitable learning environments. We set a national standard for educational excellence and family engagement. Julie introduced Ricardo Villalobos and Karen Ross Williams to discuss the scholar experience at Christopher House.

Scholar Experience, Presented by Ricardo Villalobos, Director of Family and Community Engagement
Ricardo spoke briefly about the SEL model that we are introducing to our scholars - there are five models we're teaching, which are self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and lastly, responsible decision-making. He overviewed the disproportionate impact Covid-19 had on public schools and classrooms. Christopher House scholars will learn restorative practices to hold themselves accountable. Ricardo introduces the new peace room at our Stewart Campus, the objective for this new space to create a safe environment for our scholars to receive emotional well-being, conflict resolution, and personal growth. Lastly, Ricardo discussed connecting our SEL resources through our Teachers, School Staff and security team to ensure a well-run and efficient school.

Scholar Experience, Presented by Karen Ross-Williams, Director of Early Childhood and Youth Development

Karen discussed the Summer Bridge Program 2024, that is a collaboration between ECYD and CHES. This summer marked the fourth year that Christopher House implemented a summer bridge program to support the transition of all our preschool children who recently transitioned to kindergarten. The summer bridge program is supported by certified teaching staff from both early childhood and elementary school. Lesson planning and reflection is conducted weekly with input from teaching staff that support intentional areas of focus across developmental domains and is informed by spring checkpoint data, a pre-assessment based on the kinder matrix. This year we were excited to have our two summer bridge teachers at Stewart representing both early childhood and

the elementary team. Mr, Lomax, one of our Lead Preschool teachers and Ms. Lopez, a primary teacher in CHES for developing and implementing the summer bridge instruction at Stewart.

Karen briefly overviewed that Early Childhood Summer Data for our children who are transitioning to kindergarten. At our summer checkpoint deadline, we had 57 children still enrolled who will transition to Kinder this fall. Of these 57 children, 12% were Diverse Learners. The data shows that 100% of these students met or exceeded the widely held expectations as defined by Teaching Strategies Golds.

Lastly, Karen spoke about the Career Pathways program and how Christopher House continues to address the Early Childhood Workforce shortage with innovative strategies we are excited to share that the pilot program for our Child Development Associates' or CDA program was successfully completed by 13 schoolage assistants and teacher aides across our Uptown and Stewart locations! All 13 participants actively engaged in the coursework modeled after a college-level course and completed individual portfolios within the 12-week course timeline. Each participant received individual mentoring and coaching as well as feedback from an external CDA Program Specialist. We attribute the success of this pilot to the job-embedded support that consisted of learning the theory and then putting it into practice. Staff also had access to on-site coaching and mentoring throughout the process. 100% of the participants also sat for their credentialing exam and became formally certified over the summer.

DBEIJ Task Force, Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Dee Dee Chesley announces to the board, Save The Date for Christopher House Board of Directors Retreat, October 26th at Cisco Offices, Old Post Office from 9am-1:30pm

Finance Committee Report, Presented by Becky Seibel

Becky discusses the Charter Audit and at the moment, Plante Moran has not raised any concerns.

- Financial and Compliance audits will be finalized at the end of October.
- Reports will be reviewed with Finance Committee once finalized and shared with the Board at our November meeting.

Emeritus board member, Rob Buono has continued to lead conversations with Old National bank regarding our short-term loan coming due at the end of month. Final loan terms will be shared with the board, but we expect an extension through 9/30/2025 and relief from the covenant obligations which were not met in previous years.

Becky gave us a brief overview of July Financials, which were favorable to the first month of FY25. For revenue, our government contracts, fiscal and program years do not align. For Early Childhood, July revenue reflects program year 23-24 early childhood enrollment and CCAP revenue, which was unfavorable to budget for the duration of FY24, is near exact to

budget for the month of July as we round out the 23-24 program year. We are closely monitoring 24-25 program year enrollment, most notably at Logan Square. The Finance Committee will be meeting post-20th day to review enrollment numbers and discuss action steps based on those numbers. For Elementary School, budget reflects enrollment of 430 students, enrollment at the school is trending above 430 students - official enrollment count will be taken on the 20th day of school – Monday, September 23rd. Again, the Finance Committee will be reviewing final enrollment numbers and revenue implications at our next committee meeting in late September.

External Affairs, Presented by Jeff Kemerley

Jeff briefly discussed the change of roles within the External Affairs team including recent layoffs related to budget reductions. Jeff spoke about the recent changes in our communication around Christopher House and understanding the key messages that we are implementing. Jeff gave a Year-to-date fundraising overview for FY25, we are slightly behind our goal due to the timing of corporation and foundation grants that happen on a three-year cycle. Jeff made a request for the board to help make FY25 a success by promoting awareness and making a personal contribution to Christopher House as well as soliciting their network either on social media or by community engagement.

Motion was made by Dee Dee Chesley seconded by Carlos Pineiro and carried unanimously to go into closed session.

Closed Session:

Discuss personnel matters related to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees.

Open Session:

Motion was made by Kim White seconded by Carlos Pineiro and carried unanimously to approve Julie Dakers, as Chief Executive Officer of Christopher House.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.