

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

January 15, 2025, at 4PM
Logan Square Campus
3255 W Altgeld St., Chicago, IL 60647

Board Members Attending In-Person: Adnan Assad, Ronit Barrett, Jessica Cardoni, Dee Dee Chesley, Desire Bernard-Forbes, Roberto Interiano, Lauren Long, Meghan Kiesel, Angela Ingbineweka-Obaseki, Justin Orr, Carlos Pineiro, Katheryn Steward, Candace Williams, Kim White

Board Members Attending via Microsoft Teams: Alex Maturi, Liam O’Kane,

Board Members Absent: Rolando Acosta, Jeff Kemerley, Homero Tristian

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

Quorum Met.

Minutes Recorder: Chanel Wiley

Proceedings: Meeting called to order at 4:03PM

Welcome, Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

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

Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no one present to make public comments.

Minutes and Consent Agenda, Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Motion was made by Dee Dee Chesley seconded by Roberto Interiano and carried unanimously to approve November 13, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.

CEO Report, Presented by Julie Dakers

Julie spoke briefly regarding the extended break for our Christopher House staff and leadership, and everyone is well refreshed and ready to begin the second half of the school year. Julie explained the FY25 through FY27 Program and Budget Decision Matrix and the impact and financial sustainability of K-8 for FY26.

Julie introduced Karen Ross-Williams, Chief of Early Learning and Candace Williams, Christopher House Board member, for a presentation on Uptown community numbers and narratives.

Candace begins the presentation by informing the board about the history of Uptown. Uptown is a microcosm of Chicago and home to social activists and advocates, immigrants and refugees, artists and entrepreneurs of every walk of life. Candace continued with Uptown has green space, vast lakefront, historic nightlife, global culinary offerings, and agencies that care for those in need. Candace spoke briefly about the Uptown Neighborhoods, there's six different areas that make it like a "city within a city" which are: BUENA PARK, MARGATE PARK, LAKESIDE, CLARENDON PARK & The LAKEFRONT, SHERIDAN PARK, UPTOWN SQUARE, ANDERSONVILLE and EAST RAVENSWOOD.

Karen spoke briefly about Uptown's population on race/ethnicity and currently has 2.11% of Chicago's total population of over 2 million. According to data from Illinois cares for kids.org, as of July 1st, 2024, the CCAP income guidelines stated that a family of four is eligible for CCAP if their monthly gross income does not exceed \$5,850 a month or approximately \$70,200 annually. Karen talked about the notable people of Uptown including herself, Candace Williams, Alderwoman Angela Clay, Elizabeth Akinbusuyi, Christopher House Alumni and Attorney at Law, Lastly, Talen Horton Tucker, NBA Player Chicago Bulls, Childhood resident of Uptown.

DBEIJ Task Force, Presented by Meghan Kiesel and Candace Williams

Meghan briefly discussed the board outing on February 1st to Chicago Mahogany, which is dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of the rich history and culture of Chicago. Chicago Mahogany aims to highlight Chicago's people, architecture, and impact on the world, were making a trip to Bronzeville and to learn more about that neighborhood.

Julie Dakers, CEO, briefly wanted the board to understand the DBEJI mission and what we stand for and what we want to accomplish at Christopher House. We are asking the board committees to drive equity with each board member that serves on our Board of Directors. Julie reminds the board of the five pillars of success within our organization which are Board Diversity, Board transparency, Equity in policies and practices, listen to our staff and faculty, and listen to our scholars and families.

Finance Committee Report, Presented by Adnan Assad

Adnan referenced to Becky Seibel, COO, that she explained at our last board meeting that we shared our FY24 Audit reports, as noted at that time, we were awaiting our official financial scorecard from CPS. We have received our FY24 CPS Scorecard and as expected, we met and/or exceeded all indicators. We are still awaiting the official letter from CPS removing us from Financial Remediation.

Becky Seibel, COO, briefly discussed that CPS has shared that charter schools should expect increased financial oversight in FY25. This is not overly surprising in the context of recent announcements of charter closings as a result of financial concerns. CPS hosted an information session at the end of 2024 but has yet to release official guidance. Based on last month's meeting, we expect the following annual 3-year agency budget projection:

Debt Obligation:

- Will require information on payment amounts, rates, frequency, and covenants. This is particularly of note as we look ahead to our loans coming to term in September 2025.

Collective Bargaining Agreement:

- CPS has historically not been engaged in collective bargaining conversations and will be looking for pulse updates during negotiations

Financial impacts post negotiations:

- Will be required to use CPS template to track and submit ongoing impacts today and future

Adnan discussed that they last met together in November, Julie and Becky with potential lenders and banking partners to explore opportunities to refine and set Christopher House up for financial stability. As of right now we are considering Wintrust and IFF; In addition to our loans and operating account, we'd also like to explore new partnerships to manage Christopher House investment account.

External Affairs, Presented by Roberto Interiano & Lauren Long

Roberto briefly discusses our year-to-date dashboard; we are up on the individual giving side due to a bequest of \$34,000 and in memory donations for JoAnne Cicchelli. Lauren spoke on Family to Family and how we helped over 440 families this year and an increase in sponsors. For Annual Benefit, our Save to date is May 1st at Venue West. Our Theme is "our Legacy and Our Future" with a focus on remembering JoAnne Cicchelli and her dedication to Christopher House. This year, our goal is to raise over \$500,000 and we are asking for 100% board participation to achieve this goal.

Motion was made by Dee Dee Chesley seconded by Candace Williams to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 5:48pm