

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

March 12, 2025, at 4PM
Logan Square Campus
3255 W Altgeld St., Chicago, IL 60647

Board Members Attending In-Person: Adnan Assad, Ronit Barrett, Roberto Interiano, Jeff Kemerley, Lauren Long, Meghan Kiesel, Justin Orr, Carlos Pineiro, Katheryn Steward, Candace Williams, Kim White

Board Members Attending via Microsoft Teams: Jessica Cardoni, Desire Bernard-Forbes, Alex Maturi, Liam O'Kane, Katheryn Steward

Board Members Absent: Rolando Acosta, Dee Dee Chesley, Homero Tristian, Angela Ingbineweka-Obaseki

Christopher House Staff Attending: Julie Dakers, Dr. Kellie Corley, Anna Falcon, Becky Seibel, Karen Ross-Williams, Chanel Wiley

Quorum Met.

Minutes Recorder: Chanel Wiley

Proceedings: Meeting called to order at 4:06PM

Welcome, Presented by Adnan Assad

Adnan Assad 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 Adnan Assad

Motion was made by Adnan Assad seconded by Candace Williams and carried unanimously to approve January 15, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.

CEO Report, Presented by Julie Dakers and Dr. Kellie Corley

Julie reminded the board about their Board compliance training and new compliance dashboard that will be available to them in a "read only" document, for them to track their hours. Julie, then discuss the requirements, which are Within the first year of his or her first term, every voting member of a charter school's board of directors or other governing body shall complete a minimum of 4 hours of professional development leadership training to ensure that each member has sufficient familiarity

with the board's or governing body's role and responsibilities, including financial oversight and accountability of the school, evaluating the principal's and school's performance, adherence to the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act, and labor law. In each subsequent year of his or her term, a voting member of a charter school's board of directors or other governing body shall complete a minimum of 2 hours of professional development training in these same areas. The training under this subsection may be provided or certified by a statewide charter school membership association or may be provided or certified by other qualified providers approved by the State Board.

Dr. Kellie Corley, Acting Director of Elementary Learning; Reviewed the LOIS Model and the goals for this model is to impact our students and bring in structure, which are categorized as Leadership, Organization, Instruction, Student Impact. Dr. Corley reviewed focus priority areas the elementary school including leadership collaboration and stabilization, labor relations and implementation of the CBA, culture and climate and balancing a pre-designed vision and framework with new leaders' autonomy. Dr. Corley shared where we have seen significant progress including teacher observations and coaching, universal data screening and analysis, adoption of distributed leadership model and revision of CIWP to align targeted efforts. Dr. Kellie reviewed the current impact report for our elementary and middle school.

Julie Dakers, CEO, briefly explained new student experiences at the elementary school which are the middle school clubs, peace room, middle school morning meetings and advisory, SEL Initiatives and Academic Initiatives.

Finance Committee Report, Presented by Adnan Assad

Adnan Assad briefly discusses that in September 2024 updated loan terms were executed, accelerating both of our loans. Which makes our current balance on combined loans to be five million, Adnan explained that in November we had shared that we met with potential lenders and banking partners to explore opportunities to refinance and set ourselves up for financial stability.

Becky Seibel, COO, spoke about the last two months, the Finance Committee and Executive Committee have met to discuss opportunities and to ensure that any new loan terms meet expected changes to CPS Financial compliance requirements in the upcoming year. Becky also shared in January, CPS is expected to increase financial oversight of charter schools – including a debt obligation deep dive, which will require information on payment amounts, rates, frequency, and covenants. Adnan had included that addition to YTD performance against Board approved FY25 budget, we've also included YTD against our updated forecasted budget based on the increase in CHES enrollment this school year– and increased revenue accompanying that enrollment increase with updated forecast, we are still trending favorable to budget year to date as of January. The next big milestone is the 2025 Annual Benefit and hitting our revenue goals heading into that evening

DBEIJ Task Force, Presented by Meghan Kiesel and Candace Williams

Candace Williams reviewed the Mahogany educational event that the DBEIJ committee, staff and friends of Christopher House attended. It provided an in-depth neighborhood tour of the

Bronzeville community. The tour explored the history and celebrations of this community, as well as many of the systematic and structural barriers that marginalized communities face that can be learned from as we service our community. We hope to do another educational event in the upcoming year and hope you will join.

Meghan Kiesel spoke briefly about the five pillars of success, which are:

Board Diversity: Proactively recruit, retain, and elevate to leadership roles a demographically, cognitively, and professionally diverse Board.

Board Transparency: Encourage, facilitate, and create an open and transparent board environment and framework for candid conversations about and education regarding DBEI-related topics.

Equity in Policies and Practices: Partner with the Leadership Team to review, develop, and refine policies and practices consistent with our principles of diversity, belonging, equity, and inclusion.

Listen to Our Staff and Faculty: Proactively gather and act on feedback from our staff and faculty about the challenges they face and opportunities they seek.

Listen to Our Scholars and Families: Proactively gather and act on feedback from our staff and faculty about their values, their experience at Christopher House, and their thoughts on how to strengthen our community.

Mehgan asked that each board committee to develop their own DBEIJ goals and to follow up with Julie Dakers.

External Affairs, Presented by Jeff Kemerley

Jeff Kemerley talked briefly about the dashboard as of February 28th. We are currently behind on the foundation and corporation revenue due to the timing of grants. Jeff discusses the Annual benefit being on target and ahead of goal from last year on sponsorships and pledges. Jeff asked the board for support for silent and live auction items, such as Golf packages, airline tickets, vacation condo/homes, sport tickets, wine bottles and increase number of attendances at the event and encouragement of networks to attend our Annual Benefit to continue our commitment of 100% board participation.

Jeff proposed having our upcoming board meeting on June 4, 2025, to be at our Stewart Campus at 5pm.

Motion was made by Jeff Kemerley seconded by Lauren Long to approve board meeting schedule update. motion carried to approve

Motion was made by Jeff Kemerley seconded by Roberto Interiano to adjourn the meeting. motion carried to approve

Meeting adjourned: 5:48pm