

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT MINUTES

October 18, 2024, at 9AM
Christopher House Stewart Campus
5235 W Belden Ave, Chicago IL 60639

Board Members Attending In-Person: Adnan Assad, Desire Bernard-Forbes, Jessica Cardoni, Dee Dee Chesley, Jeff Kemerley, Lauren Long, Alex Maturi, Justin Orr, Carlos Pineiro, Katheryn Steward, Kim White, Candace Williams

Board Members Absent: Rolando Acosta, Ronit Barrett, Roberto Interiano, Angela Igbineweka-Obaseki, Shavon Hale

Christopher House Staff Attending: Julie Dakers, Janet Hernandez, Bernadette Loyola, Seema Rematullah, Bonnie Werstein

Quorum Met.

Minutes Recorder: Bonnie Werstein

Proceedings: Board Training Professional Development. Meeting called to order at 9:05AM
No Business conducted or decisions made. Followed OMA meeting compliance

Opportunity for Public Comment:
There was no one present to make public comment.

Welcome, Presented by Adnan Assad and Julie Dakers
Adnan Assad called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members.

Seeking Education Equity & Diversity

Host: Christopher House Board DBEIJ Taskforce
Facilitators: Janet Hernandez and Bernadette Loyola

Understanding systems of power and oppression—both within the Christopher House community and in the broader world—is essential to building an effective board. This awareness enhances the Board’s capacity to drive meaningful change toward diversity, equity, and inclusion while centering wholeness, wellness, and just relationships for everyone involved.

In this session, facilitators will guide Board members through interactive exercises and reflective conversations designed to explore experiences of oppression, privilege, inclusion, and exclusion. Together, participants will examine their intersecting identities to foster connection and understanding—without blame, shame, or guilt. This process will deepen collective awareness of these systems and strengthen our ability to work collaboratively toward lasting, equitable change within the Christopher House community.

Delivering on our Elementary Mission & Impact 60 minutes

Facilitator: Dr. Kellie Corley

Dr. Kellie Corley presented to the Board of Directors accountability of the school performance, including SY25-26 Strategic Goals. Dr. Corley overviewed with the board the current data results for our Elementary School, including student performance and CH's approach to analyzing data, progress monitoring and change management through the LOIS Model—focusing on Leadership, Organization, Instruction, and Student Impact.

The Board reviewed the findings and engaged in discussions highlighting our past performance, the progress made to date, the goals established for each area, and the milestones achieved.

Additionally, a Portrait of a CHES Graduate was introduced. Board members participated in an interactive exercise to contribute their perspectives and insights to this evolving framework for student success.

Shared Governance 90 minutes

Facilitator: Krystal Lindsey, EdAdvocate

Governance Training focused on governing body roles and responsibilities, responsibilities in driving vision, strategic planning, and financial oversight. The facilitator engaged the board in discussion and overview best practice in implementation shared governance.

Training Ended at 1:30pm