

The Chicago High School for the Arts
Board of Directors Meeting
William Blair, 222 W Adams St, Chicago, IL 60606

Minutes for January 11th, 2016

Present: Duffie Adelson, Carlos Azcoitia, Evette Cardona, Ron Grais, Francia Harrington, James Mabie, Kay Mabie and Warren Chapman, Elissa Efroymsen, Betsy Holden, Alan Jagiello, Cynthia Mufarreh, Sylvia Neil, and Pam Strobel via telephone.

Absent: Sarah Bader, Joo Boe, Blake Batterson, Sondra Berman Epstein, Lori Faversham, Carol Friedman, Sandra Guthman, Mirja Haffner, John Hart, Shruti Jayaraman, Terry Mazany, Sandra Saucedo-Falagan, Steve Solomon, Neal Zucker

Others Present: Lana Beardslee, Karin Nangreave, José Ochoa, Jessica Ramirez, Michael Wang.

Quorum: ?

This meeting of the Board of Directors of The Chicago High School for the Arts (“ChiArts”) was held in pursuant to Call & Notice served on all Directors, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Board Chair, Kay Mabie (“Kay”), called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. She conducted the meeting in accordance to the agenda, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Chairman’s Report

Kay began the meeting by asking for a moment of silence for the passing of Marge Collens and asked the board for suggestions of ways to honor her memory. Kay thanked Ron Grais for becoming the registered agent for ChiArts and Francia Harrington (“Francee”) for arranging to have a musical therapist visit the school and talk with students. She also thanked Gensler for their donation of the remodeling of the ChiArts’ welcome room, Jim Mabie (“Jim”) and Pam Strobel for their help in deferring the cost of outdoor signage, and the Chicago Community Trust for awarding a grant to pay for an external evaluation project.

Approval of Minutes of November 9th Meeting

Ron moved to approve the November 9th 2015 Board meeting minutes. Carlos Azcoitia (“Carlos”) seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

Executive Director’s Report

José Ochoa (“José”) informed the board that current admission numbers are similar to previous years with a total of about 950 applications in process. There are currently 21 students who have requested academic hearings, most of which are only a point or two away from requirements. José shared that Betsy Ko focused on music recruitment this year and as a result our pool of music students is very promising. Jim recommends that the board visits auditions saying that it is very rewarding to see the students grow from novice students to their senior

year. Francee asked if there were any noticeable impacts from the school's location on admissions statistics, which José responded that he has not noticed a perceptible change yet other than our current low income rate which is 64%. This is a 10% increase from last year. José mentioned that since the formula for calculating this statistic is different from previous years we have no way of knowing the exact cause for this increase.

José also shared the proposed grievance policy created for ChiArts. Kay mentioned she thought a 5 day limit for reporting grievances was too short and José agreed to take a look at the language. José also shared that ChiArts' external revenue initiatives have so far earned about \$14,000 in revenue and he thanked Alia Walston for doing a great job in leading those initiatives. He also shared that a k-8th grade summer camp will be happening this year along with a summer dance intensive for high school ages.

Principal's Report

Michael Wang ("Mike") announced the hiring of Ingrid Farmer as Office Manager who he hopes will bring a new level of professionalism and organization to the main office. He also announced the academic calendar for the 2016-17 school year which aligns with CPS's winter and spring breaks to accommodate families and staff who have kids who attend CPS schools.

Mike shared recently released PARCC scores and explained that due to testing structure all freshman took the English test but only freshman enrolled in Integrated Math I took the math portion, which skews our scores slightly. He also shared that CPS has decided to keep ACT as the college exam instead of switching to the SAT.

Finance Committee

Betsy Holden ("Betsy") shared the final budget that was submitted in November. This budget was based on an enrollment of 583 students. The finance committee is projecting higher fundraising numbers and Betsy shared that they will need to see what happens now that our enrollment is lower than expected. Jim mentioned it would be helpful to see a budget broken down by arts and academics.

Development Committee

Jessi Ramirez ("Jessi") shared the board dashboard report and pointed out that 50%-56% of ChiArts students have been accepted to college, which is an increase from the same time last year. This may be due to our early start in 2015. Jessi also reported that 94% of the annual goal has already been raised in cash and commitments, including over 1 million raised in November and December alone. \$38,000 of that amount was donated in memory of Marge Collens.

Jessi announced that the development committee is going to host small group events for cultivation. Elissa Efroymsen is hosting a luncheon on January 28th. Jessi shared that the Kerfuffle committee has picked a film company to produce a 5-10 minute film for the event thanks to Pam Strobel and State Farm's generous donation. Pam Strobel asked board members to join the host committee and commit to purchasing two tickets and inviting other couples to attend.

Jessi also announced the Parent Support Organization is hosting a silent auction on February 27th and is seeking contributions.

Program Excellence Committee

Duffie Adelson shared that the committee met last October and are embarking on a program to evaluate our arts programming using outside evaluators. José added that voice, visual arts, dance, and music will be evaluated this year and the rest will be evaluated in 2017.

Communications and Outreach Committee

Francee shared that the committee had a meeting in December and decided their highest priority would be to find a public relations firm to help ChiArts with branding and reputation.

New Business

None.

Executive Session

Jim moved that the meeting move to Closed Session to discuss a good governance issue. Carlos seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

Upon returning to Open Session, Kay called the meeting back to order. No vote was required to be taken by the Board.

Public Comments

None

There being no further business, Kay asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jim moved to adjourn, and Francee seconded, and the board unanimously approved. Kay then adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shruti Jayaraman
Secretary