

The Chicago High School for the Arts
Board of Directors Meeting
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, 225 E Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

Minutes for March 2nd, 2015

Present: Duffie Adelson, James L. Alexander, Jackie Bratland, Warren Chapman, Marge Collens, Elissa Efroymsen, Michelle Esfahani, Lori Faversham, Carol Friedman, Ron Grais, Mirja Haffner, Francia Harrington, John Hart, Betsy Holden, Julie Hurvis, Alan Jagiello, Shruti Jayaraman, James Mabie, Kay Mabie, Charles Slamar; and Pam Strobel via telephone.

Absent: Sarah Bader, Joo Boe, Sondra Berman Epstein, Jay Franke, Sandra Guthman, Terry Mazany, Susan McKeever, Zarin Mehta, Sylvia Neil, Steve Solomon, Neal Zucker.

Others Present: Lana Beardslee, José Ochoa, Jessica Ramirez, and Doug Ray.

Quorum: Yes

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, Marge Collens (“Marge”), 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.

Approval of Minutes of January 12th 2015 Meeting

Marge asked for a motion to approve the January 12th 2015 Board meeting minutes. Jim Mabie motioned to approve. Marge moved to correct the Executive Session segment of the minutes by deleting the phrase “because of good governance.” Ron Grais seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

Executive Director’s Report

José Ochoa (“José”) shared the Board Dashboard Report, which provides key performance indicators to keep the Board apprised of all major progresses of ChiArts. He updated the Board on the current status of admissions, noting that due to the large size of the 2014 freshman class we will have to admit a slightly smaller class for 2015, which will keep our student population at 600.

Principal’s Report

In the absence of Nicole Fishman, José presented the Principal’s Report focusing on the decision to adjust the calendar for the 2015-16 school year. José informed the board that the decision to start school in August, rather than the Chicago Public School’s start date of September, will put

ChiArts students ahead of their peers academically and allow them ample preparation time before academic testing begins.

José also announced that graduation will be held on June 16th at the Harris Theater. He thanked Jim Alexander for his help in securing the venue.

Board Affairs Committee

Marge reminded the Board that the next Board of Directors meeting will be the Annual meeting and there will be (re)election of officers.

Betsy Holden (“Betsy”) suggested boosting corporate membership to which Elissa Efroymsen thanked Betsy for the suggestion and added that the committee was actively looking for corporate members.

Mirja Haffner mentioned it would be helpful if Sylvia Neil would send an email to the Board detailing the demographics desired for prospective board members.

Constituent Communications

Kay Mabie asked the Board to send her comments and suggestions regarding the ChiArts newsletter.

Finance Committee

Alan Jagiello (“Al”) presented a new format of financial reporting for the committee. The finance committee has decided to provide the Board with a summarized page of financials for each board meeting. Al stated the committee believes this will make it easier for all board members to read and understand the financial report.

Al reported that as of January 2015 we are about \$573,000 ahead of where we were January 2014. Al stated this is primarily due to January contributions. The working capital fund has been completely replenished from the December withdrawal. Contribution receivables are up \$780,000 from last year, which Al stated is primarily due to the Polk Bros Foundation pledge.

Al reported there is a \$1.1 million fluctuation in the liability numbers between 2014 and 2015 which is primarily due to a correction in how the finance committee reports payments from Chicago Public Schools. This was corrected for the January 2015 report.

Al reported that the current favorable variance is \$290,000 but that is primarily due to timing and it should break even by the end of the year.

Development Committee

Jessi Ramirez (“Jessi”) informed the Board that the yearly projection is slightly above \$2.5 million assuming we receive all pledge payments by June 30th. This number includes *Kerfuffle!* donations. Jessi reported that the net goal for *Kerfuffle!* is \$285,000.

Mirja Haffner (“Mirja”) asked the Board to send invitations to *Kerfuffle!* that were handed out before the meeting. Mirja thanked all the board members for their continued support and thanked Betsy and John Hart for all of their efforts to support *Kerfuffle!*. Mirja announced the Chicago Public Library agreed to be the arts partner for the creative writing program.

Francia Harrington (“Francee”) also thanked everyone for their help and reminded the Board that *Kerfuffle!* will take place at The Art Institute of Chicago which will raise the expense budget for the event. Francee asked the Board to help her in finding financial supporters for the line items of the event. The development committee will send out a wish list to all board members at a later date.

Facilities Committee

An update is included in the written Executive Director’s Report.

Program Excellence Committee

Duffie Adelson directed the Board’s attention to the written Program Excellence report.

Parent Support Organization

Jackie Bratland reported that the Parent Support Organization held a successful mix and mingle event with ChiArts parents and reminded the Board that the Buy a Brick campaign ends in two weeks.

New Business

Marge informed the Board that Sondra Berman Epstein’s husband suffered a stroke but is expected to recover soon.

Executive Session

Francee moved that the meeting move to Closed Session for a personnel matter. Kay seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

Upon returning to Open Session, Marge called the meeting back to order. She confirmed that the Closed Session was informational only and that no vote was required to be taken by the Board.

Public Comments

None

There being no further business, Ron Grais moved to adjourn the meeting, Jim Alexander seconded, and the board unanimously approved. Marge adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Slamar
Secretary