

ChiArts Board Meeting February 3, 2020

The Chicago High School for the Arts
Board of Directors Meeting
3:00-5:00p.m.
Thresholds, 120 S. LaSalle
Minutes for February 3, 2020

Present: Duffie Adelson, Dana Berkowitz, Warren Chapman, Erin Clifford, Steven Collens, Peter Doyle, Sondra Berman Epstein, Carol Friedman, Christine Gallagher, Ron Grais, Mirja Haffner, Francia Harrington, Shruti Jayaraman, Jim Mabie, Kay Mabie, Gary Metzner, Liza Pappas, Cynthia Plouche

By Phone: Betsy Holden, Jonathan Plotkin, Winston Soh

Absent: Elissa Efroymson, Lori Faversham, Sandra Guthman, John Hart, Tom Hurvis, Alan Jagiello, Samera Ludwig, Sylvia Neil, John Yonover, Neil Zucker

Others Present: Tina Boyer Brown, Paul Cook, Johnny, Merrifield, Terri Milsap, Jose Ochoa, Megan Sauve, Omar Tabbara (on phone)

Quorum: Yes

The meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of The Chicago High School for the Arts (“ChiArts”) was held pursuant to a Call & Notice served on all Directors. Board Chair, Ronald Grais (“Ron”) called the general session to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of December Meeting

Ron requested approval of the December Board Meeting minutes. Francia Harrington (“Francee”) motioned to approve the minutes, and Duffie Adelson (“Duffie”) seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Announcements & Board Business

Ron informed the Board that we are now subject to the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). As such, all Board Members are required to take the OMA online training. Ron encouraged all to complete that ASAP.

To be compliant with OMA, Ron put forth a Public Participation Policy, to be approved. Sondra Berman Epstein (“Sondra”) made a motion to approve the policy, and Cynthia Plouche (“Cynthia”) seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Ron presented the revised list of committees, and encouraged all Board Members to take a look, and consider on which committee they would like to serve. No vote was taken. Ron gave all Members a form to fill out, detailing what skills each Member might be able/willing to provide to ChiArts.

Executive Director's Report

Jose Ochoa ("Jose") shared his report. He shared that audition season is complete, and now Admissions will work on finalizing the incoming Freshman class. The Music Conservatory is the one that has experienced the most growth. One project for next year, for all conservatories, is "Opportunities Week", which will bring college (and other) representatives to ChiArts to see the work of the students.

Jose introduced Betsy Ko ("Betsy"), head of the Music Conservatory, to talk about the Cultural Musical Pathways Initiative (CMPI). CMPI is a program for students who want to be classical orchestra musicians, and it provides opportunities and funding for these students. ChiArts has three students currently involved in the program. While it is a wonderful opportunity, Jose explained that its narrow focus removes many of ChiArts' students from eligibility.

Betsy also shared that ChiArts Music Students had recently returned from the Illinois High School Association's State Competition, where they performed very well.

Principal's Report

Terri Milsap ("Terri") shared her recent focus on changes / adjustments / clarification of school rules. Some changes were made to bring ChiArts into line with what other schools are doing, and some were made that are specific to the work we do at ChiArts. There has been some pushback from students and teachers, but things seem to have quieted down.

Terri created a Personal Development Day for the Academic Teachers, to help gain a better understanding of teachers' needs re: Instructional Leadership. Terri hopes the teachers will gain an understanding that they are supported and valuable.

Finance Report

Christine Gallagher ("Christine") shared that we received our audit scores from our recent audit, and we were "Meets Standards".

Christine and the Finance committee are working with Terri to update this year's budget, to reflect Terri's priorities. Next year's budget will be started on, soon. Part of the challenge is not knowing how much we will receive from CPS.

Development Report

Johnny Merrifield ("Johnny") provided an update on fundraising. Current numbers reflect that we have raised about 2/3 of the goal for the year.

One big focus is finalizing plans for the annual fundraiser, Kerfuffle, on March 11. If anybody has any prospects for sponsorships or donations, please share that info with Johnny.

PSO Report

Peter Doyle ("Pete") shared updates of recent events that have had Parent involvement. Two areas of focus have been appreciation events for teachers and staff, and fundraising from the sales of merchandise and concessions at events.

Plans are underway for a Parent-Run fundraiser, called ChiNights, to be held in May.

Public Participation

Ron opened the floor for any Public Participation, but there was not any.

Conclusion

Ron requested to adjourn the meeting at 4:38pm. The motion was put forth by Sondra Berman Epstein ("Sondra") and seconded by Carol Friedman ("Carol"). All voted in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren Chapman
Secretary