

# chiarts® THE CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Minutes from  
Previous Board Meeting

## Board Meeting Minutes - November 14, 2023 2714 W. Augusta Blvd, Chicago, IL 60622

Meeting called to order by Duffie Adelson

Roll call taken by Rogelio Castro

Board members present: Duffie Adelson, Carlos Azcoitia, Michael Crawford, Deirdra Donahue, Carmen Echevarria (virtual), Peter Fidler, Karen Fishman, Bill Gerstein, Ron Grais (Ex-officio), Sabrina King, Kay Mabie (virtual), John McCambridge, Michelle Pierre-Farid, Yulinda Rahman

Others present: Mark Bracken, Director of Production; Tina Boyer Brown, Executive Director; Rogelio Castro, Recruitment Coordinator; Paveille Driver, Principal; Kanika Glover, Assistant Principal; Greer Reed, Artistic Director

Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting, September 12, 2023 made by Michael Crawford and seconded by John McCambridge. Motion carried.

Performance by senior MT, Eloise Nelson, "The Life I Never Led." Introduction given by Tina Boyer Brown, Executive Director.

Motion to go into closed session. Motion carried.

Motion to end closed session. Motion approved. All board members returned to Open Session.

Executive Director's Report presented by Tina Boyer Brown, Executive Director.

- Contract renewal report. Program Excellence Committee to generate support for our public hearing for renewal. The Board will vote for renewal on January 25, 2024.
- Hiring report: Near the end of the process for hiring of the Admissions Manager. Introducing the position of Communications and Support Coordinator who will also help in the main office for two hours per day.
- Mass Action Social Media Lawsuit: Tina Boyer Brown shared an opportunity to participate in a Mass Action Social Media lawsuit, in recognition of past harm caused to students through social media.

Motion introduced by Duffie Adelson. Michael Crawford Moved the Motion to participate in the Social Media Litigation Class Action Lawsuit. Motion seconded by Carlos Azcoitia. Motion carried.

Principal's Report presented by Pavielle Driver, Principal.

- We are still looking for Spanish teachers. Covering the vacancy is \$1,250 for each class for the remaining year. Classes can be facilitated virtually. Ms Davis said that APEX has a contract with CPS, but only a limited number of spots. We have extended an offer to a Spanish teacher, but haven't heard back from them. There have been two long term Spanish substitutes who have been here for a month.
- Working with Tina Boyer Brown on how to recruit good teachers. Concerns in regards to salaries.
- Principal Driver is serving as the current case manager. There are many 504 and IEPs. There may be a demonstrated need for two case managers. They would help out with IEP meetings and separate testing.
- Looking for growth in the current curriculum and how to analyze our current teaching standards.
- Misconduct report: 4 out of school suspensions and 1 in school suspension. All are for use of alcohol, drugs, and controlled substances.
- Hiring report: Ty-Ling is leaving the Registrar position. Looking for an assistant dean, a counselor, and social worker (by December 14th, 2023).

Artistic Director's Report presented by Greer Reed, Artistic Director.

- Faculty has been very busy and celebrated in the communities. Tracey Franklin was presented with the 2023 Black Excellence Award as a choreographer. Rachel Slavick was accepted into The Kilroys. Imani English was selected to participate in the Black Choreographer's Festival in Baltimore to represent Chicago. Kenyatta Rogers ran a workshop in Miami called Tools For The Toolbox and leads the Sunday Reading Series monthly in Chicago. Lauren Wells-Mann has been a guest speaker in Chicago.
- Greer Reed traveled to a conference at The Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama in concentration of policies, procedures, and structures for arts schools.

Governance Committee Report was presented by John McCambridge.

- Current bylaws state that we can have between 10-15 Board Directors. We would benefit from increasing the range and suggest that we adopt a range of changing those numbers. The Governance Committee recommends changing the range to: Not less than thirteen (13) nor more than eighteen (18). Duffie Adelson asked for a Motion to accept this change. Bill Gerstein made the Motion, seconded by Dierdra Donahue. The Motion carried.
- Duffie announced that Cynthia Plouche has been on medical leave for a number of months and has announced her resignation as a director. She also previously served as the Chair. Cynthia wishes the school all the best and hopes to attend school events in the future. Her resignation was accepted.

Program Excellence Committee Report was presented by Bill Gerstein.

- The renewal of our contract can be a maximum of 5 years.
- CIWP will be presented in the next meeting, December 7, 2023 at 5pm.
- School administration is improving the academic performance of the school. This is linked to the budget.

Finance Committee Report was presented by Peter Fidler.

- Peter presented the 2023 Audit, conducted by the accounting firm, ORBA. Peter noted that the auditors gave us a clean report and asked for approval of the Audit which was moved by Karen Fishman and seconded by Sabrina King. Motion carried.
- Peter asked for Motion for formal approval of the 2024 budget which was seconded by Karen Fishman. Motion carried with one opposed.
- Peter provided a year to date update on financials:

- Audit showed a loss of \$1,015,457 for 2022-23 school year.
- \$600,000 in legal fees and health care costs in the 2022-23 school year.
- 2023-24 Budget will include a \$420,000 loss.
- We will investigate any possible relief from CPS administrative fees. Looking for fundraising from parents and other ways to address the budget deficit.
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PSO Report presented by Yulinda Rahman.

- Working through ideas for the next meeting.
- Looking at college readiness. Academics to prepare with advisors.
- Concessions report: Kiss the Cast for Sister Act. Snacks and clothing. \$1,500 raised through concessions.
- Looking for conservatory leads to keep people engaged.
- Communication through social media. Struggling with Parent Square.
- Looking for a fundraiser for academic needs and monthly meetings with administration.
- Creating workshops with parents in regards to mental health, controlled substances, and dating.
- Family holiday support is coming up.

Public comment session.

- Megan Pietz (ChiArts teacher and Union rep):
  - Many of the same issues are not being addressed.
  - Staff overload, hiring not happening.
  - Climate and culture
  - Two unfilled positions in our bilingual staff.
  - Regarding online programs: We need a physical teacher rather than an expensive program.
  - Asking that a national search be initiated to fill those positions and the ELPT team.
- James (PSO president)
  - Struggling to find basic staff, and the students are suffering.
  - We hear about problems but no solutions.
  - It is a city wide issue.
  - We can work to get the job done here.

- Megan Riley (ChiArts teacher)
  - Jordyn Birden has been working at ChiArts as a long term substitute. She subbed for Math 1 last year and teaches music theory during the art day.
  - Why is it proving so hard to hire staff?
  - Need to secure a competitive salary for case managers. 170 students are diverse learners, that is 30% of the student population. Everything is affected by special ed. DL teachers need to be paid more as they are performing these jobs.

New business: None.

7:41pm - Duffie Adelson asked for a Motion to adjourn: Moved Carlos Azcoitia and seconded by Yulinda Rahman.