



The Chicago High School for the Arts Board of Directors Annual Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 @ 5:30 pm
Location: Room 121 at ChiArts 2714 W Augusta Blvd Chicago, IL 60622.
Board members, citizens, and staff may participate in the meeting.

I. Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Duffie Adelson

5:32 called to order by Duffie Adelson, attendance taken by Mike Przygoda

Board members present:

Duffie Adelson, Carlos Azcoitia, Janette Cortes-Duewel,
Carmen Echevarria (virtual), Karen Fishman, Sabrina King,
Kay Mabie (virtual), John McCambridge, Michelle Pierre Farid

Others present:

Tina Boyer Brown (executive director), Douglas De Jong (CFO),
Johnny Merrfield (Foundation Chair), Mike Przygoda (Communications),
Greer Reed (Artistic Director), Wayne Williams (Interim Principal)

III. Student Performance:

Amajen Anzaldua
"Gravity"

III. Approval of Minutes from Feb 26, 2025 Meeting*

Duffie Adelson

Motion to approve made by Sabrina King, seconded by Carlos Azcoitia. Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

- Megan Pietz, English teacher and union representative
 - Asking to support the executive director, artistic director, and operational staff to on-board the new principal.
 - She wants to move from reactive response to proactive planning.

- Alex Cookman, ChiArts teacher
 - Reading this on behalf of Bethany Wassink.
 - Have taken on an overloaded schedule, but does not want to rely on overloaded schedules as a solution for the budget.
- Allison Filbin, ChiArts teacher
 - Has had a closet in her classroom converted into a nurse's office.
 - ChiArts has been paying a third party for nursing, would be better in-house.
 - Filbin wants to look at what services have been outsourced versus done by staff.
- Danae Graham, ChiArts teacher
 - Proud of the showcases that have taken place each year. Students are proud of them and involved.
 - In meetings with administration there has been talk about cutting showcases because of budgetary concerns.
 - Wants to propose to make showcases a fundraiser to the school.
 - Showcases are a core part of the culture.
- Karoly Keefe, ChiArts teacher
 - The frequent changes in administration has affected the school in many ways. The math department has been unable to move forward because of the constant change.
 - Has not had a meeting with an administrator to discuss goals, progress, or professional development.
 - Wants more support for staff leaders within departments.
- Efrain Peralta, parent
 - Daughter came home crying every day crying due to not having bilingual support
- Camila Gonzalez, ChiArts student
 - It has been very difficult to attend classes that are primarily in English.
 - Needs ESL support so she can have an English class at her level.
 - Wants bilingual support in all of her classes
- Lee Ann Silva, ELPT
 - Expressing concerns with the inability to comply with ML services
 - The office of OME recently visited due to complaints filed with the state based on ML compliance

- Must provide TBE and TBI programs for incoming students, ML to upperclassmen, ESL curriculum, two additional bilingual teachers, one ESL teacher, ML teacher assignments, additional classrooms, and more technology including smartboards.
- Aaron Brown, ChiArts teacher
 - He wants to hire administrators who are passionate, diligent, and knowledgeable.
 - The lack of stable leadership led to uninformed professional development days
 - Led to math department getting the wrong curriculum and access to it
 - The instructional materials budget has been misused
 - Would like more financial transparency.

V. Presentations & Reports:

- Executive Director Report Tina Boyer Brown
 - We have accepted 149 students who are still in the pool. Rolling waitlist opened on April 21, 2025 for incoming 9th graders as well as transfer students.
 - In the process of principal hiring. Have seen three candidates in person so far. More will be seen.
 - Will decide on the top 2.
 - Vote on ChiArts-CPS Contract Amendment*
 - We do not have this. CPS redlined another section after the last vote, CPS is still in the discussion phase of this.
- Interim Principal's Report Wayne Williams
 - 38 students sat for the State seal of biliteracy, 5 were able to sit for two
 - ACT and Pre-ACT testing occurred. ACT had technical issues, so working through with CPS to do a retake of the test or finish what they didn't finish.
 - Quarter 3 parent conferences occurred. Survey responses to the conferences included, but it was a small pool that responded.
 - OME responded to state complaints. Staff has adjusted student schedules.
 - ISBE wants more information. Williams and Silva are working on providing that.
 - Course requests did go in. Team is working on a master schedule and flagging how many sections of each course are needed.
 - Staff and students are still mourning the loss of Jamie Cerny.
 - Only getting 5-15% response from surveys sent out to families. Trying to figure out better ways to communicate better.
 - The grab and go breakfast option has begun since the last meeting.
 - CPS has come in and has promised new materials for a second serving area during

lunchtime as well as two more lunch staff members. Exploring a second lunch period.

- Total of 552 students.
- SPED positions have two candidates who have made it through the first round.
- Have a candidate for ESL ready for round one of interviewing.
- Clarifying SAVVAS curriculum and how it can be utilized.

- Artistic Director's Report

Greer Reed

- Has visited many of the arts classrooms with Principal Williams over the last two weeks. Saw brilliance and exceptionality.
- Scholar artists are fortunate, gifted, and amazing at what they do.

- ChiArts Foundation Report

Johnny Merrifield

- Welcomed two new board members to the ChiArts Foundation.
- Also adding a Kellogg MBA Fellow to the board.
- New digital marketing campaign called "Meet The Artist" to interview current and former students about their experience and what their practice is. Launching it later in the spring.
- Launched the application for the Alumni Network and Alumni Board. Responsibilities will be advocacy for ChiArts, fundraising, and connecting with current students. In the process of conversations with those who applied, and hope to announce the board by the end of May.
- The gala is May 1, 2025, it's called Bold Visions.
 - At 70% of the fundraising goal so far.
 - Will be opportunities to give during the evening including a paddle raise.
 - Val Warner from ABC7 is serving as the special guest host for the evening.
 - New sponsors, new attendees at the gala who have not been there before.
 - The Caerus Foundation renewed their grant and committed to a \$250,000 one to one match.
 - Also working on spring appeal to individual donors who have not yet renewed.
 - Invited first four graduating classes and will have 26 alumni attending.

- Committee Reports & Discussion:

- Finance Committee

Douglas De Jong

- Don't have a refresh for Q3 yet, but is performing as forecasted.
 - The deficit in Q2 is still what we're expecting with some improvement.
 - SPED Appeal has been approved.

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 - CPS has not released their budget book for the next year.
 - Tax Return was filed six weeks quicker than last year.
- Parent Support Organization Michelle Pierre-Farid
 - Parents Night at Kings Bowling on May 22, 2025.
 - Have been participating in principal interviews.
 - Pride shirts are out.
 - Trying to push the 5k.
 - Pi Day sales were positive.
 - PSO will donate \$2,000 to close the senior fee gap.
 - Will be selling cupcakes this Friday.
 - Working on an Amazon Wishlist.
 - Will be helping with Staff Appreciation Week.
 - Will be working on centerpieces for the senior luncheon.
 - Working on the water filters for the students, but will be talking to the administration for how to do that.

6:52pm, Motion to move to Executive (Closed Session) made by Carlos Azcoitia, seconded by Janette Cortes-Duewel, motion carries.

6:52, Motion to review closed session minutes to determine whether to continue confidentiality made by Karen Fishman, seconded by Michelle Pierre-Farid. Motion carried.

VI. Executive (Closed) Session

- In accordance with section 2(c) of the Open Meetings Act (the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, collective bargaining or dismissal of a specific employee or legal counsel for the public body), and Self evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).
- Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

VII. Review Closed Session Minutes*

- In accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d) of the Open Meetings Act, no less than semi-annually, a public body must meet to review minutes of all closed meetings. At the meeting the public body must make a determination that (1) the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes and (2) the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection. The determination must be reported in open session.

8:26pm motion to add text to go into closed session made by Carlos Azcoitia, seconded by Michelle Pierre-Farid.

Motion to keep closed session minutes from September 18, 2024 confidential made by Michelle Pierre-Farid, seconded by Sabrina King. Motion carried.

Motion to keep closed session minutes from November 13, 2024 confidential made by Sabrina King and seconded by Michelle Pierre-Farid.

Motion to keep closed session minutes from February 26, 2025 confidential made by Karen Fishman, seconded by Carlos Azcoitia. Motion carried.

VIII. New Business

IX. Adjournment

8:28pm motion made to adjourn by John McCambridge, seconded by Sabrina King. Motion carried.

*Requires Vote

2024-2025 Upcoming Full Board Meetings

(All meetings take place at 5:30pm in Room 121 at 2714 W. Augusta, Chicago, IL 60622)

June 18, 2025