

SIUE Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 4, 2021
Approved Minutes

Members present: Susan Breck, Anne Detoye, Jessica Harris, Robin Hughes, Veronica Jeffries, Alison Reeves, Maracus Scott, Willis Young

- I. The meeting was called to order by President Willis Young at 11:02 AM.
- II. October 26, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as read.
- III. There were no requests for Public Comment.
- IV. The Board congratulated Vice President Jessica Harris on her new position as the University's first Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
- V. Investment policy –Anne DeToye
In the Auditor's Communication to Board, Sikich recommended that we adopt a formal investment policy. They provided limited guidance of what should be contained in the policy.
 - a. This policy was adapted from a sample policy provided to me by INCS.
 - b. Our lawyers have also reviewed the policy for adherence to the IL School Code and reasonableness.
 - c. Addresses the short-term investment/operating cash pool which consists of unrestricted net assets (our reserves).

Anne DeToye moved to adopt investment policy. Alison Reeves seconded and motion passed unanimously.

- VI. Treasurer Report – Anne DeToye
 - a. Foundation Account
 - i. Foundation Balance \$28,874.84 on 2/22/21.
 - ii. Angel Tree Giving Campaign
 - iii. Raised \$21,190!!! Last year, we raised \$1,785.
 - iv. Huge support from our extended SIUE family in addition to donations from two local banks, other SIUE departments, corporate matching gifts, and other external organizations.
 - v. Every student a Holiday Swag Box which includes:
 1. CHS logo gear – sweatshirt, throw blanket, beanie, gloves, pop socket
 2. Coupon for a turkey
 3. \$100 gift card to Schnucks

4. Headset
 5. Assorted school supplies
 6. Clorox wipes and PPE
- vi. Our neediest students also received personalized gifts.
- b. STEM Gift
- i. Balance as of 2/22/21 in spendable portion of the STEM donation was \$1,457,200.29.
 - ii. So far, paid expenses have included laptops/ipad for the 1-1 initiative, other computer equipment for lab spaces, Metro bus passes for students, professional development travel and education, salaries for instructional coordinator and IT personnel, STEM based field trips, STEM and robotics supplies, STEM curriculum, and STEM lab renovation costs, renovation of the multipurpose room.
 - iii. The \$700,000 endowment has earnings of \$23,806.
- c. Connectivity Gift
- i. Received an endowed donation of \$700,000 plus a spendable donation of \$133,700 to ensure connectivity of CHS students and to help bridge the digital divide.
 - ii. The spendable portion has been/will be used to purchase 120 ATT data ready Chromebooks and two years' worth of service from ATT.
 - iii. The endowed gift will be used to pay connectivity service fees into perpetuity.
- d. Title I and Title IV
- i. The purpose of Title I funding is "to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality **education** and reach, at minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments."
 - ii. Title I budget is \$101,749. \$64,452 of these funds cover salary and benefits for a math teacher. The remaining funds help fund summer school, art therapy, and supplies
 - iii. Title IV funding must only be used to provide additional services, staff, programs, or materials that are not provided with State or local resources absent federal funds; federal funds cannot pay for resources that would otherwise be purchased with State and/or local funds.
 - iv. Title IV budget is \$11,653 and is being used for well-rounded education, safe and healthy programming, and effective use of technology.
- e. CARES Act Funding
- i. Total Allocation = \$94,400
 - ii. Four bills totaling \$46,433.01 so far
 - iii. Planned future expenses include cleaning supplies, PPE, student food/supply pick up days March – June, hot spot billing Feb – June, art therapy, summer school.

- iv. A second round of CARES funding was awarded to District 189 totally \$94 million. The district is in process of allocating the award to district school and CHS. No word yet on how much we will have to spend, but it should be as much or more than the first round.

f. Operations

- i. Revenue – Our PCTC will be \$113,917 lower than budgeted. Budgeted for 120 students; actual 1Q 112, 2Q 114, 3Q 108, 4Q 107
- ii. CARES Act Funding – represents the amount billed to date of our \$94,400 allocation. Offsetting expenditures are below in various expense accounts.
- iii. On behalf salaries – change implemented by Sikich last year. Represents the salaries paid for CHS employees with the STEM gift.
- iv. Salaries – projected to be overbudget by \$97,150. (Share salary reconciliation)
- v. Meals to Participants – we have been doing monthly food/supply pick up days for our students. Limited access to NSLP. Helping to make sure their basic needs are met.
- vi. Advertising – weekly ads in the ESL Monitor all year long to help bolster declining enrollment.
- vii. Other Professional Services - \$5000 to Penguin Random House to have Nic Stone, author of Dear Martin, speak to the school, \$1000 to Tanjanika Foster for faculty PD, and \$2500 to Principal Kafele for presentation to staff and parents, \$3750 to The Howard Group for PD for faculty (black boy joy), \$500 for decorating for food/supply pick up day.
- viii. Student Activities – Running Start, Yusef Salaam all school assembly, misc.
- ix. Telecom includes Verizon hotspot charges that are reimbursed through CARES funding.
- x. Depreciation Expense – higher due to new Connectivity gift
- xi. Projected Change in Net Position before Contribution Revenue through 6/30/2021 = (\$53,216.82)
- xii. Use some of our unrestricted reserves (accumulations of prior year net incomes)
- xiii. Cash Balance at 2/23/2021 = \$651,965.55

Jessica Harris moved to accept Treasurer's Report. Alison Reeves seconded and motion passed unanimously.

- VII. FY22 Running Start Agreement – Gina Jeffries
For this AY 2 out of 3 students recommended for Running Start were unsuccessful and brought back to CHS. One student will graduate in May with running start credit. Zero students are recommended for next year. Bring the contract forward so it is in place in case students get recommended later. Anne DeToye moved to accept Running Start Agreement Contract. Alison Reeves seconded and motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. Charter renewal FY21 – Gina Jeffries We began virtual negotiations with District 189 in summer of 2020. We requested that all the terms remain the same with 97% reimbursement and 120 students, but for one year rather than two. ISBE however, recommended we request two years. Attorneys are conducting the negotiations, however so far not successful in getting follow up from the District. We are meeting with Attorneys tomorrow and plan to get a final decision on one versus two years, even if we have to include ISBE in final discussion.
- IX. Interim Secretary election – Willis Young
Alison Reeves has agreed to replace Susan Breck as interim Secretary until the Board elections in June.
- X. Foundation Discussion Items – Anne DeToye
Discussion by the Board over the level of oversight of foundation fund spending and signatory of STEM and Connectivity Gifts. Anne DeToye and Alison Reeves will craft a statement on Board's stand on this issue and return to Mr. Young for dissemination.
- XI. Presentation from CEO – Robin Hughes
Robin Hughes discussed the MOU between Carbondale and District 189. She wants to get some clarification on SIUE's role in this MOU and reaffirm our interest in working with #189. She already has an appointment with members of #189.
- XII. Appointment of Budget and Finance Committee members – Willis Young, Anne DeToye, Robin Hughes, Jessica Harris, and Maracus Scott were appointed to the Budget and Finance Committee. Anne DeToye will convene committee as soon as she has the per capita tuition charge.
- XIII. Director's Update – Gina Jeffries
- a. Supply pick-up days support both scholars and community.
 - b. Covid is still a big issue in East Saint Louis. Still a lot of mistrust with vaccine.
 - c. Were able to move from outdoor pick-ups to indoor pick-ups. Families sign up for times.
 - d. Schnuck's cards and food help draw scholars and families.
 - e. 76% of households in Black community are single woman.
 - f. 70 % of guardians are using gab and go food distribution.

- g. Presented national data about Learning Loss for Students of Color
- h. Progress Monitoring-all CHS scholars have “life-line” an adult CHS member who checks in with scholar. Faculty meet on weekly bases to discuss strategies.
- i. Instructional Support – Dr. Lisa Cummings
 - i. Check-Ins with Teachers Bi-Weekly or Monthly, Discussions center around: strategies that are and are not working, Curriculum needs, Weekly or Quarterly Plans
 - ii. Example-Supporting new mathematics teachers with resources to support students during remote learning
 - iii. Weekly lesson plans are current for instruction purposes and the website
 - iv. Quarterly plans are viewed and input shared.
 - v. Professional Development Opportunities
 - vi. STEAM/pi Day activities
- j. Students were offered a free Study Skills Course via SIUE. Currently one senior and one junior are enrolled.
- k. Encouraged Board to remind others of the inequities in the impact of Covid on students across Metro East School Districts.

Mr. Young expressed the need for space and teachers as future concerns for CHS.

- XIV. Adjournment-Anne DeToye moved to adjourn. Maracus Scott seconded and motion passed unanimously.