

COMMUNITY OF PEACE ACADEMY

Board Minutes: September 11th, 2023

Members Present: Kevin Keto, Maggie Elenz, Orobosa Ero, Sarah Zosel, Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson, Greg Buckner, Tom Ciaccio (Zoom), Megan Cina-Bernard (tardy, Zoom)

Members Absent: Daysi Rivas

Ex-Officio Members Present: Tim McGowan, Executive Director

Guests Present: Jason Carver, High School Principal; Molly Huml, Elementary School Principal; Bonnie Johnson, District Business Manager; Bryan Farkas, Special Education Coordinator; Erin Fiege, Interventionist; Trinity Moore, High School Student Council Co-President; Braelynn Bryant, High School Student Council Communicator

Community Comments

- Student Council is planning a homecoming dance with the theme of Masquerade Ball. They asked if this would be okay, but the decision must be made within the high school.

Peace Circle

Acceptance of the Minutes: August 14th, 2023. **(Attachment A)** - Sarah Zosel

- **Recommendation #1: Approve the August 14, 2023 Minutes**
 - **Recommended:** Kevin Keto
 - **Second:** Orobosa Ero
 - **Voting in Favor:** Kevin Keto, Maggie Elenz, Orobosa Ero, Sarah Zosel, Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson, Greg Buckner, Tom Ciaccio

Acceptance of the Agenda: September 11, 2023 - Sarah Zosel

- **Recommendation #2: Approve the September 11, 2023 Agenda**
 - **Recommended:** Maggie Elenz
 - **Second:** Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson
 - **Voting in Favor:** Kevin Keto, Maggie Elenz, Orobosa Ero, Sarah Zosel, Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson, Greg Buckner, Tom Ciaccio

Approval of Contracts and Purchases - Tim McGowan **(Attachment B1 – B6) NOTE: change in recommendation**

- **Recommendation #3: Accept the Six Purchases**
 - **Recommended:** Greg Buckner
 - **Second:** Orobosa Ero
 - **Voting in Favor:** Kevin Keto, Maggie Elenz, Orobosa Ero, Sarah Zosel, Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson, Greg Buckner, Tom Ciaccio

Executive Director's Report. **(Attachment C)** - Tim McGowan

- **Recommendation #4: Accept the September 2023 Personnel Report**
 - **Recommended:** Sarah Zosel
 - **Second:** Kevin Keto

- **Voting in Favor:** Kevin Keto, Maggie Elenz, Orobosa Ero, Sarah Zosel, Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson, Greg Buckner, Tom Ciaccio, Megan Cina-Bernard
- **Notes:**
 - Retention in high school staff is fantastic!
 - Transportation
 - High school students at the end of the route were appointed to help with Pre-K and Kindergarten started at CPA this year
 - Bussing for field trips and activities works differently than we originally thought. We can return offers to get better pricing on buses.

Executive Director's Report Attachment D1 September 12th, 2022

I. Personnel Report

A. Leaves

1. There are no leaves to report

B. Separations

1. **Ellisia Blaque**, Middle School ELD Teacher, is no longer a CPA employee as of 8/24/23
2. **Maliza Kalema**, In-House Guest Teacher, is no longer a CPA employee as of 9/7/23.

C. New Hires

1. **Jamari Garrent**, High School Special Education Paraprofessional
2. **Mikel Smallwood**, Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional

D. Reassignments

1. **Kirk Livesay**, HS Math Teacher

E. Still Hiring

1. Elementary ELD Teacher
2. Middle School ELD Teacher
3. In-House Guest Teacher

Recommendation: Accept the September 2023 Personnel Report

II. Academic Program

Elementary (Molly Huml):

September 2023:

The school year is underway and it has been a great start! We are busy establishing routines and procedures and building our classroom community. Our PeaceBuilder focus of the month is Praise People and our Social Emotional Learning focus is building relationships. Students are learning about and practicing these

skills during their Morning Meetings and Peace Skills time.

Maggie Elenz, Academic Interventionist, has been completing academic inventories with students to get baseline data to start the year. Teachers will be using this data to plan their WIN (What I Need) time starting next week. We will start FASTBridge testing September 18 and that will give us more data to drive our instruction.

We continue to work daily on building our Elementary Graduates!



Middle School (Joe Doll):

The middle school is off to a strong start! Our new staff members have done an amazing job of getting acclimated to the profession and joining the CPA community, and our veteran staff have been leaders in setting the tone. During the first week of school, students had an altered schedule to allow ethics teachers to put a strong emphasis on building community and establishing the vision for what it means to be a student at CPA Middle School. In grades seven and eight, we're re-starting our partnership with Minnesota Community Care with Sandy Naughton visiting each grade once a week to lead conversations around healthy relationships and safe behavior with peers.

High School (Jason Carver):

We are delighted to share the exceptional beginning we've had to the 23-24 school year! At the core of our educational mission is a commitment to fostering a culture of learning, peace, and relationship-building, and we are proud to announce that these values are flourishing throughout our school community. Our hallways are consistently clear, and our classrooms are vibrant hubs of learning and exploration. This start can be attributed in large part to the return of 11 out of 12 core teachers and the transformation of our Special Education (SpED) department, which has

transitioned from two virtual teachers to an entirely in-person teaching team. This continuity of familiar faces, established routines, and challenging academic environments has created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our students, where the pursuit of academic excellence is the standard.

Our commitment to enhancing the student experience extends beyond the classroom. We are actively working to bring valuable outside resources into our community to further enrich the educational journey. On September 14th and 15th, we are thrilled to host a representative from "30,000 Feet," who will be presenting to our students on a range of topics, including after-school academic support, arts and literacy, and exciting tech employment opportunities. Additionally, on September 22nd, our 10th-grade students will embark on an inspiring journey of leadership development and relationship-building at Camp Ihduhapi, an experience that promises to leave a lasting impact on their personal growth.

Furthermore, on September 26th, we have the privilege of welcoming a guest speaker who will share their remarkable journey with our 10th graders. This speaker has achieved mastery in the art of barbering and has established themselves as a successful local business owner in Maplewood. Their story will serve as a source of inspiration and motivation for our students as they consider their own paths to success.

We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for our school community during this academic year and are committed to providing our students with the best resources and opportunities for growth. Together, we will continue to build a nurturing and intellectually stimulating environment where our students can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Schoolwide:

- Office Staffing Update
- Transportation Update
 - Daily Routes
 - Athletics/Field Trips
 - Hotline

III. Finance

A. Enrollment:

IV. STATE REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE

A. Title I, II, and III applications have been submitted as of 8/31/23.

B. PELSB Submissions

1. TIER 2 APPLICATIONS

a) Kaari Aeng, PreK Teacher

2. TIER 3/4 APPLICATIONS

a) Yeng Lee, Middle School Math

b) Amisha Shah, High School Science

V. AUTHORIZER

A. No response from MDE yet on Renewal

B. Quarterly Report I due October 1, 2023 (Annual Report/WBWF)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Board Officer Elections - *Sarah Zosel*

- **Recommendation #5: Elect the following people to the following Board positions:**
 - **Chair: Sarah Zosel**
 - **Vice Chair: Kevin Keto**
 - **Secretary: Megan Cina-Bernard**
 - **Treasurer: Tom Ciaccio**
 - **Recommended:** Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson
 - **Second:** Orobosa Ero
 - **Voting in Favor:** Kevin Keto, Maggie Elenz, Orobosa Ero, Sarah Zosel, Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson, Greg Buckner, Tom Ciaccio, Megan Cina-Bernard

Board Training/Responsibilities/Voting - *Sarah Zosel (Board Training: Governance)*

Board Committees – clarify membership and scheduling - *Sarah Zosel (Board Training: Governance)*

Finance Committee: Tom Ciaccio

Facility/Health and Safety Committee: Greg Buckner, Orobosa Ero, Kevin Keto

Mission and Policy Committee: Maggie Elenz, Kevin Keto, Sarah Zosel

Schoolwide Program Oversight Task Force

Parent Involvement Committee: Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson

Board Goal Review - *Sarah Zosel (Attachment D)*

- Board members should think of goals for the next meeting

Spring 2023 Family Survey Results -*Molly Huml*

Community Engagement Report (**Attachment E**)

Adjourn.

- **Recommendation #6: Adjourn the Meeting**
 - **Recommended:** Maggie Elenz
 - **Second:** Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson
 - **Voting in Favor:** Kevin Keto, Maggie Elenz, Orobosa Ero, Sarah Zosel, Teresa Vazquez de Nilsson, Greg Buckner, Tom Ciaccio, Megan Cina-Bernard

Next Meeting: Monday, October 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Items:

UST Quarterly Report 1 (AKA Annual Report/World's Best Workforce Report)

Board Strategic Plan Review

Dedication Day Update

Elementary Principal’s Update