



**Board Meeting (held via Zoom)**  
DRAFT Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2024  
6:00PM - 7:15PM

**Members Present:**

Robbie Dean, Vice-Chair & Treasurer  
Allison R. Kokkoros, Member  
Ana Mejia, Secretary  
Johan Uvin, Member  
Larry Villegas-Pérez, Member  
John Goodman, Member  
Giovanni Delfino, Member  
Yeshimebeth Belay, Member

**Members Absent:**

Hector Torres, Chair

**Staff:**

Angela Medina, Chief Operations Officer  
Karla Vasconez, Manager, Executive Administration  
Robert M. Skelton, General Counsel

**Other:**

Mike Mesterharm, EdOps

**Quorum:** Yes

**Welcome & Pre-Meeting Announcements**

Board Vice Chair Robbie Dean provided opening comments and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

**Review of Agenda**

Mr. Dean asked if there were any proposed changes to the agenda previously sent to the Board. Board members did not propose any changes to the agenda.

**Public Comment Period by members of school community**

Mr. Dean confirmed that no members of the public had signed up to give comments during the Public Comment Period.

**Consent Agenda Approval**

The following items were brought forward for approval as part of the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Board’s regular meeting held on May 15, 2024.

Ms. Rosario moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Mr. Goodman seconded the motion. Following the invitation for discussion on the motion, a roll call vote was conducted, and the Consent Agenda item was approved unanimously.

**Finance & Development Committee**

Mr. Delfino noted the following:

- The Finance & Development Committee is bringing to the Board the FY25 Budget for consideration and approval.
- For the last several months, the Finance & Development Committee has engaged with the School leadership on the FY25 budget development.
- The Committee reviewed FY24 financial projections, the impact of the DC budget updates, market rates, and the School’s FY25 strategic priorities and direction.
- The Committee also developed the Board Reserve Plan, and considered ensuring that the FY25 budget prepares the School for fiscal sustainability in FY26 and beyond. The Board Designated Reserve Plan has strong bones that will be fleshed out more in the first quarter of FY25 together with the Committee and School leaders.

Mr. Delfino then welcomed Mike Mesterharm, the School Finance Manager from EdOps, to provide the Board with a high-level overview of the FY25 budget.

Mr. Mesterharm noted the following:

- The School will be receiving a significant increase in revenue which will be invested in its students and staff, as well as in the resources needed, in the facilities and in the long-term financial health of the School.
- With the 12.4% increase in per student funding in the Mayor’s budget, plus higher enrollment, plus an increase in the weighted per student amount allocated for adult education, there is a one-time increase in revenue to the School of about \$6 million for FY25. The budgeted net income is projected to be \$4.3 million.
- The budget shows significant investment in the following School priorities:
  - Student resources such as data, laptops and other supports
  - Professional Development for faculty and staff
  - \$2 million for the board designated reserve fund
- The Committee is also developing a structure for a strategic project reserve plan to assure the School’s long-term financial sustainability and flexibility to meet future needs.
- When developing the budget, the process included all budget managers. The key investments for FY 25 include:
  - Staff salary increases in line with historical practices
  - \$1 million dollars in expenses for new positions that will support students
  - Doubling the professional development budget
  - An overall 15% increase in direct student spending
- Beyond FY25, the School’s financing is uncertain since it is directly tied to the DC budget. Therefore, the FY25 budget is conservative in terms of adding future expenses that might not be supported in later years. The FY26 budget exercise which was shared

with the Board anticipates very conservative increases in future revenue, plus the increasing costs associated with inflation.

Ms. Kokkoros noted that per the District CFO Office DC is facing a challenging economic outlook, but that she was very pleased with the Mayor's budget proposal and the support for education from the DC Council, which shows a strong investment in education by DC leaders. Adult education is now funded close to the level recommended by the Adequacy Study. The advocacy by the School and by the other DC Charter Schools was critical to the budget successes. However, the School will continue to be fiscally conservative in recognition of the potential challenges in future years.

Ms. Rosario thanked the staff and the board members for their advocacy during the budget process. Mr. Dean noted that the budget reflects strong management and a solid reserve plan.

Mr. Dean then requested a motion to approve the FY25 budget as recommended by the Finance & Development Committee. Mr. Uvin moved to approve the FY25 budget, and Mr. Goodman and Ms. Mejia both seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion was approved. Mr. Villegas-Pérez did not vote on the motion.

### **Closed Session**

Mr. Dean noted the next item on the agenda is slated for closed session, citing the DC Code provision for doing so:

- Discussion in closed session pursuant to DC Code § 2-575(b)(11) – trade secrets and commercial or financial information.

Ms. Rosario made a motion to approve entering the closed session for the stated purposes. Mr. Uvin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted to approve entering the closed session as proposed. The Board voted unanimously to enter closed session. Following the vote, the Board entered closed session.

Following the closed session, the Board returned to the open meeting at about 7:14pm.

### **Open Session**

Mr. Dean thanked everyone for a robust discussion during the closed session. The Board reviewed the recommendations of the Compass report, which it will discuss more thoroughly at the next Board meeting.

### **New Business**

- There was no new business.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Dean adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.

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Respectfully submitted by Ana Mejia, Board Secretary

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