

The Soulard School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
1/21/21 held via Zoom

Board members present: Jay DeLong (President), Jamie Boyer, Steve Groves, Meghan Grubb, Basiyr Rodney

Board members absent: Jim Holloran

New board member: Ron Kampwerth

Staff: Sarah Christman, Eleanor White, Shannon Spradling, Shenika Bishop

Guest: Bill Mendelsohn, UMSL

Notes: Eleanor

1. Welcome, Intros & Opening Comments
2. Board development -
  - a. Proposed new board member - Ron Kampwerth, CFO of Together Credit Union
  - b. Pier Alsup was prior board member from Credit Union
  - c. *Approved unanimously*
3. Review and approve December meeting notes - *approved unanimously* (Basiyr and Ron abstaining as they were not present at last meeting)
4. Board Training
  - a. Basiyr & Steve to hold special session on Title IX and Sunshine Laws
  - b. 1/27, 12:00-1:00
  - c. Zoom invite to follow
5. Board Summit in March - to include TSS and SEC boards
  - a. 4-6 hour day to work through groundwork for creating strategic plan
  - b. 3/27/21, with follow-up session in April
  - c. Via Zoom unless circumstances indicate could be in-person
6. Finance committee: Jamie (chair), Jay, Ron - to schedule regular meetings
7. Presentation: Bill Mendelsohn - MAP testing and charter politics
  - a. MAP testing
    - i. Our 3-5th graders will test for the first time, since it was canceled last year
    - ii. What do we know from DESE?
      1. They are planning on testing
      2. They are pushing for in-person testing as much as possible
      3. Data will be used primarily for individual student performance, as well as schoolwide performance and sub-group performance (advanced, basic, below basic, remedial)
    - iii. What do we not know?
      1. What if parents refuse to send kids to school for testing?
        - a. Will school have to send proctor to the home?
      2. How will DESE use the data to assess schools/districts?
      3. How will they measure student growth w/o 2020 data?

- a. Definitely can't do for TSS because this will be our first time - we will get 3 years before DESE can calculate APR scores
  - iv. Covid severely disrupted all schools' delivery model - will largely be negative effect on student growth/performance, especially relating to rising inequities
  - v. Low test scores can have much more negative impact on charters than district schools, so as a charter board, need to be paying attention to policies on this
  - vi. Suggesting parent letters:
    - 1. #1 - Notify 3-5th grade families about testing - purpose, process, schedule, parent role, etc.
    - 2. #2 - Communicate to all families in summer about how test results will be posted in paper, etc.
    - 3. #3 - Letter to send to individual parents to accompany their test scores - explain what report says about their kid
- 8. School updates
  - a. Welcomed 3-4th graders back in January
    - i. 5th grade staying 100% virtual for 4th
  - b. Continuing to track covid and do on-campus rapid tests if needed
    - i. Have administered 12 Binax rapid tests so far - all negative
    - ii. No evidence of in-school transmission, no large groups having to quarantine
  - c. Assessment - Shenika
    - i. Currently doing second round of STAR and dyslexia testing
  - d. Special Education updates
    - i. Coordinator hired - Kate Brothers
    - ii. Will provide Zoom intro to community
  - e. Admissions and planning for 2021-22
    - i. Currently have 65 applicants for enrollment for next year
    - ii. Have offered virtual tours to reach out to families
    - iii. Dr. Echols recently notified charters that it is likely that there will continue to be restrictions due to covid into the fall
      - 1. School will work to consider how to expand in-person learning safely
- 9. Financial updates - Shannon
  - a. Review financial dashboard and cashflow
  - b. December SEC donation to TSS - \$67,000
  - c. Shannon to review documents more with Ron prior to budget committee meeting
  - d. Currently wrapping up independent audit
    - i. Will need to do special session before end of month to review/approve audit
  - e. Vote to approve December financials - *approved unanimously*
- 10. Development fundraising partnership with SEC
  - a. Forthcoming email will request:
    - i. 100% board participation in annual fund (starting in March)

- ii. Help with SEC grant and funding requests - if you have connections with donors/organization
- iii. Consider getting a "table" for virtual Soulard School Trivia Night on 2/20

11. Next meeting 2/18/21

12. Adjournment