



The SEED School of Washington, D.C.
a public charter school

Board Meeting Minutes
The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C.
Thursday, May 25, 2023
9:00 A.M.

Attendance:

Directors

Angelita Buckman
Robin Chait
Vasco Fernandes
Trameece Jeffries
Huck O'Connor
Lesley Poole
Christopher Rooks
Desa Sealy
Lesley Thompson
Raj Vinnakota
Eric Vinson Sr.

Absent

David Steinberg

Staff

Rahima Abdullah
Vincena Allen
Kenneth Arndt
Beverly Bradley
Keniq Coney
Linda Gebric
Holly Gray
Eriel Holloway
Rashida Holman- Jones
Kendra Johnson- Tesch
Jason Mellen
Chloe Marshall
Hopi Moodie
Woodrow Scott
Erika Asikoye

Secretary

Kiare Mays



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Call to Order

Desa Sealy, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Sealy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve minutes from March 16, 2023; the board minutes were passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the diploma for Jerryle Robinson; the approval passed unanimously.

Head of School Update

Christopher Rooks, Interim Head of School, shared the following objectives for the meeting:

- Approve SY 23-24 proposed budget (recommendation to FDN board)
- Update board members on Head of School search progress
- Update board members on school status and performance
- Update board on SEED Network Finance and HR/Talent Integration progress

Finance

Ken Arndt reported the following finance updates:

- Year -end projections
- YTD Results

Mr. Arndt reported SEED is in an excellent financial position.

A motion was made to move for a recommendation to The SEED Foundation to approve SEED DC's 23-24 SY budget; the approval passed unanimously.

Enrollment Update

Rashida Holman-Jones, Director of Family & Community Engagement shared:

- 233 students currently enrolled with 100 applications pending applications.
- 153 completed reenrolled students with 31 incompletes due to hardship. We are working with families. 10% attrition from 31 students
- 70 new 9th and 10th grade students enrolled last year, not 80 as previously mentioned.
- 31 students over from last year's student enrollment.

Desa Sealy questioned if we are expected to enroll any 11th grade students or just 9th and 10th grade students for 23-24 SY?



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Ms. Holman- Jones stated, no enrollment for 11th grade, but they can apply for the waiting list, which currently has a demand of about 20 students per grade level.

Desa Sealy questioned how do we welcome new 9th and 10th grade students?

Ms. Holman- Jones reported that The Family and Community Engagement team has a monthly touch point calendar to engage new families. Home visits, tours, swag giveaways, social media connections, emails, and chats. August program for students to experience the boarding program before the school year starts. Listening sessions with families and involvement of current parent ambassadors to connect new families to the school culture

Desa Sealy questioned if it is clear to parents that we are a boarding school? Also, how many students are currently staying for the academic day?

Ms. Holman- Jones followed up by confirming that families are aware of the school being a boarding program Currently working with Mr. Rooks addressing transportation concerns and ensuring safety for students traveling to school Currently, there are six official day students. Also stating we can start the school year with 260 to 265 students and auditing at 250.

Kenneth Arndt mentioned no issues if enrollment exceeds 250, but payment will be received only for 250 students.

Head of School Search Update

Erika Asikoye reported the following:

- Agility search firm leading the search process.
- Weekly meetings and biweekly steering committee meetings to track progress.
- Discovery phase underway, gathering information from stakeholders and cultivating candidates.
- Rigorous timeline aiming for the finalist process by mid/end of June.
- Multilayered interview process, including video prompts and in-person interviews.
- Final steps include recommendations by the steering committee.

Raji Vinnakota asked what does the market looks like in the DMV?

Erika Asikoye responded, the search firm, Agility, has provided positive feedback, stating that they have received promising responses not only locally but also from candidates across the nation. Excerpts from candidate profiles were shared, indicating a strong pool of potential



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applicants. Despite the challenges associated with timing, there is optimism among the search committee that a suitable candidate will be found.

Leslie Poole noted that the landscape has changed, with some leaders previously leaving the field now reconsidering and potential candidates relocating. This adds complexity to the search process, emphasizing the need for thorough evaluation beyond immediate circumstances.

School Performance Update

Mr. Rooks highlighted the following area of data points; MAP assessment, year-to-date course performance data, our network success measures and provide some senior class updates.

Mr. Rooks shared the end of the year academic data, including the following metrics:

- MAP Growth goal of 70% for both Mathematics and Reading. 73% Mathematics (exceeded goal) and 67% Reading (fall short). The median growth percentile from Fall 2021 to Spring 2023 is 27%.
- 14%-16% of our students perform below specific grade score during the time of the year for assessments.
- The average achievement for our special population students is half of what it is for general population students.
- MAP Lexile Reading Levels: 934L for 9th grade.
- MAP Lexile Reading Levels: 955L for 10th grade.
- The passing rate for Math is 91%.
- The passing rate for Reading is 92%.
- 96% of our seniors are passing DC History (required course) and our is to have 90% if students pass all their classes.

Network Success Measure

Mr. Rooks highlighted the following details from the Network Success Measures quarterly dashboard:

- Meets *Exceeds Expectation* measure on seniors applying to 10+ Right Fit Colleges
- As of May 10th, 80 percent of seniors have been accepted into 2+ Right Fit Colleges.



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Senior Class Update

Mr. Rooks highlighted the following senior class details:

- The College Decision Day and Rising senior ceremony were taking place today. Where the seniors would celebrate their college decisions and the juniors would be recognized as rising seniors. There was also an upcoming all-white senior reception.
- 48 students on track to graduate, two eligible for the DC Rainbow graduation in August, and one senior being ineligible to graduate.

Student Life

LaMar Bagley, Director of Student Life presented the board with photos of students participating in athletics, SPARKS, afterschool activities, and clubs. He provided the following updates:

Athletics

The varsity boy's baseball team had qualified for the playoffs and reached the semifinals. The track and field team performed well in the championships, finishing first in their heat. Additionally, one student athlete competed in the state chess championships.

Extra-Curricular and External Partnerships & Opportunities

The organization Emerging Triumphantly facilitated social-emotional learning (SEL) services for young men, focusing on communication skills and SEL competencies. The partnership with Girls Rock continued, with scholars sharing their experiences on a radio talk show. The Fly by Light partnership focused on teaching restorative practices and community building. The Fly by Nature partnership involved coding activities both on campus and in the community, including a visit to GHT Limited to learn about various engineering careers.



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SPARKS

The Jazz Band and Girls Rock Band were scheduled to travel to Crescendo Studios for a recording session and live performance. Nia Fowler-Washington received a scholarship for international travel, choosing a one-month internship in Ghana.

Senior Prom

The 2023 Senior Prom was a successful senior prom.

SEED Network Finance and HR Talent Integration Update

Hopi Moodie, presented to the board the following information:

- The concept of integration was explained, focusing on the support, expertise, functions, and authorities required within the Seed network.
- The aim was to share costs, access high-level expertise, ensure on-site support, explore automation and improved systems, and mitigate risks.
- The importance of consistent governance, sharing strengths, standardized systems, and cost efficiencies was emphasized.

Kenneth Arndt provided details on the analysis of finance functions across the network and the creation of job descriptions for each position.

- The plan to establish a network CFO was shared to provide oversight and guidance across all network entities.
- The timeline for hiring the network CFO was presented, along with an update on the resumes received and the upcoming interview process.
- The goal was to have the new staff in place by July 1st, allowing for a smooth transition and preparation for the upcoming fiscal year.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.