



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

Board Meeting Minutes
The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C
Thursday, September 29, 2022
9:00 A.M. EST

Attendance:

Directors

Angelita Buckman
Huck O'Connor
Lesley Poole
Desa Sealy
Trameece Jeffries

Absent

Vasco Fernandes
David Steinberg
Rajiv Vinnakota
Eric Vinson

Staff

Rahima Abdullah
Vincena Allen
Beverly Bradley
Angelita Buckman
Eriel Holloway
Rashida Holman- Jones
Kendra Johnson- Tesch
Hopi Moodie
Brian Rahaman
Christopher Rooks
Demetrius Blue
LaMar Bagley

Guest

AT

Secretary

Kiare Mays



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Call to Order

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

Head of School Update

Dr. Rahaman shared the following objectives of the meeting:

- Update board members on student performance, school culture, Student Life program, enrollment, and finance.
- Update on 25-year charter review process.
- Update on board recruitment.
- Update on special project.

Dr. Rahaman provided school progress updates for the fifth week of school. Within the 5th week of school, he feels the school year is back to normal since we have not had any COVID disruptions so far. We have only reported two cases.

Enrollment Updates:

- Nearly 100 new students (including 9th and 10th grade)
- 30 10th grade students on the waiting list.

The first month of school after getting back from COVID we are focusing on building relationships, getting to know our students, and establishing clear expectations and procedures. We continue to establish a school culture that will allow us to accelerate student learning.

Staffing Updates

Dr. Rahaman gave an update on our vacancy positions. He reported that about 15% of our staff is new this year. We have filled all direct service positions. We are currently looking to hire a Data Analyst. Dr. Rahaman introduced Kiare Mays, new Executive Assistant, and Demetrius Blue, the new Principal.

Academic Leadership

Demetrius Blue introduced his academic leadership team.

Ms. Aneka Blue, Assistant Principal, served as an instructional coach and interventionist. Mr. Blair Meek, Instructional Coach, comes from DCPS.



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Student Performance

Mr. Demetrius Blue explained that the academic team has been focusing on student engagement. He showed several pictures from classrooms that illustrate high levels of student engagement.

Mr. Demetrius Blue shared beginning of year academic data, including the following metrics:

- Reading Achievement- on average, our 9th and 10th grade students were in the 28th percentile on the baseline MAP reading assessment.
- Math Achievement- on average, our 9th and 10th grade students were in the 27th percentile on the baseline MAP math assessment.
- Special Populations- on average, students with special learning needs, which comprise about 32% of our student population, were in the 14th percentile on MAP assessments. PARCC 2022- 12% of our students were proficient in ELA; 4% of our students were proficient in Math.

Lesley Poole and Huck O'Connor inquired about the scores and asked for clarification on the test scores provided in the areas of reading Achievement, Math Achievement, Special Education Performance and PARCC scores. They would like clarification on which students are included in the data provided.

School Culture

Dr. Lamar Bagley presented the board with a collection of photos depicting students participating in SEL, after school, and fieldtrips. Dr. Bagley's primary focus of the School Culture Team is to support a safe, orderly, positive, and equitable learning environment. Dr. Bagley expects students to build positive relationships and be fully engaged in their academic and emotional learning experiences.

At the start of the school year, Dr. Bagley took 9th grade students to Go Ape Treetop Adventure and 10th and 11th grade students to a game center where they fellowshipped with their peers on a teambuilding activity which reinforces relationship building.

Dr. Bagley introduced the five pillars of School Culture Framework:

- Relationships- Building positive relations in the building through team building and mentoring. This is a connection made earlier with Mr. Blue and the academic team connection with students during the Staff/ Student Basketball game.
- Engaging Learning Environments- Focused on school pride, clean campus, and offering honor assemblies for different incentives.
- Physical and emotional safety- Creating a safe campus for students to be able to follow through out the building. This is done by having staff monitor corridors.
- Support Care and Connection- using the SEL Framework. We recently opened the SEL Center for mental support for scholars and staff.
- Clearly Define Expectations- Striving to communicate with scholars. Established a cell phone policy and enforcing the scholar code conduct.



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Desa Sealy and Huck O'Connor questioned the correlation between these activities and fostering of the positive relationships. They asked how the team building activities impact the classroom environment.

Dr. Bagley presented to the board his experience in Greece with 7 10th and 11th grade students. Students were able to partake in the Greece culture through several activities: visiting Athens and Napoleon, Greek myth story telling class, fundraising for the homeless, scavenger hunts at the Ancient Agora site, learning new dances, and trying new foods.

Student Life

Mr. Christopher Rooks explained the following objectives for the Student Life Program:

- Develop Social and Emotional Competencies
- Improve Student Engagement and Enrichment Opportunities
- Increase Parent Involvement

Mr. Rooks informed the board that the Student Life Program is also encouraging and helping students to be prepared for college, careers, and success.

Enrollment

Rashida Holman-Jones reported that we have a current enrollment of 254. We have a budgeted enrollment of 247 students. Our roster set date is October 5, 2022. Our residential audit will be on October 19, 2022. This is when the OSSE auditors will come to campus and physically count the number of students staying in our boarding program. We currently have 33 students on our waitlist: 15 students in the 9th grade and 20 in the 10th grade.

Finance

Mr. Huck O'Connor provided a general finance update stating that the school continues to be in very solid financial footing. Both revenue and cash are strong. Our debt as of today is less than \$700,000.

Dr. Rahaman reported we applied for the \$1.14M Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grades (6-12) Grant. This grant will be distributed over 3 years which will allow us to hire two Reading Specialists, a Literacy Coach, and train teachers on how to incorporate literacy into their courses. The award notification will be provided to the school on Friday, September 30, 2022.

25 Year Review

Dr. Rahaman reported that we are in our 25-year review year. We will go before the charter board on Monday, November 21, 2022. This is where a vote will take place whether or not to extend the charter. The criteria to fulfill the charter goals are: PMF (accountability framework), charter laws, and fiscal management and economic viability.

Leslie Poole and Desa Sealy noted that board members should be present for the 25- Year Review meeting.

Board Requirement



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- Dr. Rahaman reported that we have interviewed two potential board candidates. We hope to complete in-person interviews soon and provide other board members with details on both candidates prior to the next board meeting.

Desa Sealy noted that there is an additional parent candidate already identified in the last round of interviews.

Leslie Poole noted to be sure to be consistent in the communication, that the SEED DC board is making a recommendation to the SEED Foundation Board and that the final approval sits at that board.

Special Projects

Dr. Rahaman reported the special project is in its next stages. Research was conducted by Anshay Tull, Special Assistant to the Head of School, by visiting several colleges to review their Journalism programs. Dr. Rahaman informed the board that the next steps are to speak with a land use attorney and a civil engineer to determine the feasibility of adding to the school campus. We will work with Sean Regan, Managing Director of Regan Associates, LLC., to move through the feasibility analysis.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.