

**Board of Directors Meeting
February 16, 2021 @ 5:30pm
Virtual Meeting Minutes**

Directors in Attendance: Fr. John Raphael, Dr. William Hytche, Dr. S. Keith Hargrove, James Cobb, and Robert Taylor

Corporate Membership in Attendance: Lili Hart, Mark Faulkner, Sister Sandra Smithson Irene Boyd, and Rebecca Horton

School Personnel: Ahmed White, Executive Director and Lekita Stevenson, Board Liaison

Project Reflects Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 5:36pm by James Cobb. Scripture reading from Psalm 124 was rendered by Fr. John Raphael.

A quorum was established.

Approval of Previous Board of Director Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2021 Board of Directors meeting submitted via email, was made by Dr. William Hytche. The motion was properly second by Fr. John Raphael with no amendments. The minutes were approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Corporate Membership Report presented by Mark Faulkner.

The Corporate member main responsibilities are to protect the mission & assets of the organization. The Membership is proud to announce that we are in the process of completing the conversions of the Reading Success Program. This project is projected to be completed by the start of the 2021-2022 academic year. It is also projected to fall within the original \$50k budget for completion. The membership's enthusiasm remains high as it relates to the completion of this project.

The main goal is to get it off the grounds and usable in our school. At that point, we will be able to actively review/measure its improvements and make the necessary adjustments, if needed, to get the software where it needs to be technically. Hopefully, this software can also become a platform for adult and/or ESL learning in the future.

Executive Director's Report presented by Mr. Ahmed White

Our team is actively seeking ways to grow the organization. Character formation was introduced to our kinder students last year. As a result of receiving the LEAPS grant, character formation is now being offered weekly in the PREP afterschool program the Director, Leah White, who is ordained. Our goal for this program is to continue the mission of Project Reflect, to offer a Judiah Christian program, by offering the same values and principals through the PREP Program without crossing any legal and religious boundaries.

We have also been afforded the opportunity to provide character development for kinder and first grade this year and also use it as a form of redirection.

MNPS is heavily considering placing 5th grade in the Elementary School level with hopes to allow students a little more academic foundation, maturity, and stability before going into Middle school. This will also allow to the disproportionate numbers of students that over populate our middle and high school facilities.

How does this impact the life of SCA? What are our short-term and long-term goals?

Strategic planning?

- ***First Option*** – SCA can add 5th grade to our current charter. This will call for an amendment to the charter even if MNPS moves forward with this adjustment. It will not apply to the charters. In order to properly pursue this option, an ad hoc committee would have to be formed to review and provide next steps to amend the charter.
- ***Second Option*** – Republic Charter has asked if SCA would be interested in partnering with them as a feeder school. If 5th grade is transitioned back to Elementary School, this will cause them to lose a grade level. Therefore, they would offer SCA the ability to open a second ES site on their campus becoming a feeder into their Middle School. Our current site would serve as the feeder to the Liberty Middle School, which would also become a partner with Republic.

James Cobb recommends that we tailor this discussion until another date and host a separate meeting for discussion to hash out all the particulars that comes along with these options. This topic is very intriguing, however, there are a lot of open-ended questions and concerns that warrants board, legal, and parental representation. Strategic plans and future goals need to be fully discussed and laid out for this organization.

Fr. John Raphael made a motion that a subcommittee is established to explore possible partnerships and/or expansion opportunities comprised of representatives of corporate members, board members, faculty, and parent representatives. The Education Committee will present status report beginning with April Board Meeting.

Discussion: Two things we need to address:

1. Current and Present opportunities.
2. The need to address a strategic plan.

The executive committee also needs to meet by April to address where the school plans to go going forward. This subcommittee (which will be under the educational committee) can also address current assets and accommodation we have to house these possibilities.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Keith Hargrove.

Further Discussion Points:

- Parent representation

- Possibly collect surveys from parents
- Subcommittee to work on development of the survey
- Note that this is an exploratory conversation and not a commitment
- Rebecca Horton suggested that we revisit the closure of the middle school to see what needs to be done from what we did right and what could have been done differently.

Fr. John proposed an amendment to the motion: Committee needs to meet with in 30 days to prepare initial report to board of directors in April.

The motion was moved by James Cobb to include the amendment. This motion was properly seconded by Dr. Keith Hargrove. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Keith Hargrove nominated the chair of the Educational Committee to also serve as the chair of this subcommittee. Dr. William Hytche accepted this charge. (Volunteers for this committee included: Irene Boyd, Dr. Hargrove, Fr. John, Robert Taylor, and Dr. Hytche) The committee will reach out for potential staff and parent representatives.

Grants and Future Opportunities: Over \$740,000 has been award/received this year and runs into next year in grant funding. Mr. White and Mrs. Stevenson are managing quite a bit this year. Yet, we have been blessed and afforded the opportunity to move the needle forward through our finances. There is a need for additional support to help assist with some of these extra/added duties in addition to the normal day to day task as they do not want to miss-manage grants or the mission of the organization. Therefore, they are going to address ways to expand and avoid burnout over the next few weeks.

Governors Initiative "Reading 360" - Mr. White has put in a call to the state. Hopefully, it is his goal, to reintroduce Reading Success and possibly have our program apart of this initiative.

This concludes the Executive Director's Report presented by Mr. Ahmed White.

Board of Directors Chairman's Report presented by Mr. Cobb

James Cobb was happy to report that the school is doing a great job with managing finances. Mr. Cobb and his children were able to visit the school providing valentines treats for all students and staff personnel. He highly encourages the Board of Directors to show their support and appreciation to the staff for their dedication and faith to serve our students and community through these tough times.

Fundraiser Committee Report presented by Dr. Keith Hargrove *(This report was presented via PowerPoint and is available upon request.)*

This was a detail of all the grants and donations that have been secured thus far. James Cobb wanted to point out that he sees the fruits of our labors. Ms. Stevenson noted that S. Mary and S. Sandra has been raising funds via donations for the Pre-K program during this pandemic. Thank You!

Board Development Committee Report by Fr. John Raphael

Fr. John has submitted a resume to the Board of Directors and Corporate Membership via email. He recommends this candidate for possible review for a future Board of Directors seat. He advises everyone to take a few minutes to review the candidates resume if they have not done so already. The Board can consider obtaining an e-vote or voting at the top of our regularly scheduled April meeting.

New Business & Open Items

SCA is currently providing rapid COVID-19 testing onsite.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. William Hytche and second by Fr. John Raphael. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Directors Meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

Board of Directors Meeting minutes were taken and presented by Lekita Stevenson, Board Liaison