

**Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2022 @ 5:30pm
Virtual Meeting Minutes**

Directors in Attendance: Fr. John Raphael, Ramona Johnson, James Cobb, Dr. Christy Marrs,

Corporate Membership in Attendance: Mark Faulkner

School Personnel: Ahmed White: Executive Director (briefly) & Lekita Stevenson: Board Liaison

Project Reflect's Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 5:44 p.m. by James Cobb. The prayer of reflection, Psalm 33 was rendered by Fr. John Raphael.

A Quorum was not established.

Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

There was no motion to approve the minutes from the October , 2021 Board of Directors meeting since no quorum was established.

Corporate Membership Report by Mark Faulkner

- Corporate members haven't had a recent meeting, but we are planning to have one in February.
- Lilly Hart due to personal family issues has stepped down from the corporate members. Seven members are needed for the Corporate Members.
- The corporate members are having discussions for Lilly Hart's replacement to round out because we like to keep seven members on the on the corporate constituency. There are number of people that support project reflect that we are vetting the names as a replacement.
- We will let you know as the deliberations continue and the results of who will replace the corporate member.
- In the area of mission and assets that are our jurisdiction. We see that very simply the mission is continuing well. We tip our hats to Mr. White and in his team of leadership that is doing such a great job with the school.
- And that is also surrounding the school with both student and community support services that help to enrich the fiber of the character of the moral formation of those little kids, the sacred lives that are entrusted to us and their families and the people that that live around the community of the school.
- I was able to report back to the corporate members, and we are very impressed with the appeal that was executed last Thursday in front of the state where the Metro had approved us for a fifth grade but not approved us for more seats, more student population to fill that fifth grade. And we, the board can be proud that our chair James Cobb, Mr. White, Mrs. Stevenson, other representatives, the teachers, and the

students that came forth to speak on behalf of the school, and to urge the state to in effect, overrule metros denial of our request for additional seats.

- They presented very well it was very compelling. And as I said, it highlighted not just the great academic activities that are going on, but also how every student that they entrust to us, which they should interest more ends up having a positive effect not just on the student, but on the community. surrounding you know, we canvass the community to bring to get students to come in, but then with the students in, we then give back to the community in the way of services and support to their families. So that every student that they seek that they allow us has a leveraging a ripple effect impact through that that child's family and through their friends and through the community with what we do in wraparound services.
- It was an excellent appeal. And I encourage everybody on the board to submit written comments to the state in support of them approving us for more headcount for more seats. I think the cutoff date is January 20th to submit. I believe Mrs. Stevenson has a link to submit written reports and written support.
- On the resource side, the asset side, we know of nothing that is awry with the physical facilities. We continue to see and monitor the financial reports that are coming through. As Father, indicated in his comments before the state, the work that the team has done is nothing short of miraculous that was the word he used.
- It is true project reflect assets have never been in such solid fiscal condition as it is right now. And that's absolutely a direct result of the competence and the diligence and the integrity of Mr. White and the team that he assembled in place.
- We as the corporate members are very pleased.
- We would like to express acknowledgement to Mr. White and Dr. Christy Marrs their involvement with reading success software program and having regular meetings with Jed Haldeman of Mass Interactive.
 - The project is progressing well in terms of the quality checks and working the bugs out of the software translation, taking the old technology to new technology to the new platforms of HTML. It is going well, and being used at the least the PreK level
 - We are also heading towards a demo of the reading success software to members of the metro Council and in Metro Nashville Public Schools with the idea that that demonstration, which will be kind of emceed or guided by Jed Haldeman, he will come down from Ohio, and be here present on the day that Mr. White picks for Metro to see the demonstration, we'll invite the charter school office as well. Our goal is to let Metro know that this asset/resource is here and can be utilized for helping kids ready for kindergarten and reading even before kindergarten, which of course, ends up being a real benchmark of their success.
 - I think Dr. Marrs is working towards kind of the ad hoc committee to look at how much time and effort we should put behind this, or we should expect Mr. White to put behind this as a part of a board assessment of the of the project, but we're continuing to push it forward., Fiscally to be able to sell it and have a money stream to support our organization.

Executive Director's Report presented by Mr. Ahmed White

- Mr. White reported, most of their efforts over the last several months have been directed towards the addition of fifth grade and increasing our numbers approved.
- We have worked diligently to do the right thing by students and our families.
- Shift focus to Strategic planning:
 - Next moves are for the organization and for the school; where we are going to place the kids and how we're going to do that.
 - In the recruitment season -We have an agreement with Teach for America. We have some candidates that we will start to talk to over the next few weeks. And so that will be ongoing and then we have two other candidates that we're looking to fill the open slots for next year because we would have to really get moving pretty fast to get the slots filled to get the best candidates possible.
 - Starting extensive tutoring, Olivia & Mrs. Jackson have been working hard & we have 10 Wonderful candidates for tutoring and will continue to push the academic envelope for students and help them fill some of those gaps. And then we've done our teacher meeting today, we've also been able to do some training concerning I-ready and see where our students are performing. So therefore, we can have a very drilled down impact on students and their learning.
 - In addition, this week or next week, we will start intensive tutoring for all of our students.
 - In addition, our PreK program is starting to grow again, I think Mrs. Stevenson is accepting a few new students in over the next couple of weeks. And so that program, I think, is going to come back up to the point where we'll need a second teacher. We are excited about that.
 - Push out recruiting for next year to kind of get our name out there, we have an article going into matter, Sonia. So that we can also put that out there and put a few things on social media to make sure that we're moving forward.
 - Our financial report, as I think Mark has shared, I know, Chairman Cobb knows, as we're doing well, financially, we just finished our audit.
 - Our audit came back with a small finding that we have to work on just the communication with our third party, CFO. But it's something that's very easily correctable, and we have corrected it.
 - And I will submit the financial report in book form to Chairman Cobb, Father John & Mark Faulkner as soon as we receive it.
 - We've had to hire on a couple other positions, we hired on a one on one over the last quarter, to work with some of our needy students at kindergarten level. And we've also had, as I said before, hire an employee to work with our i-Ready tutoring and our reading success program implementation.
 - As Mark said, we'll have a date set, hopefully, before spring break for Jed to come down. We can meet with Metro schools to let them see what the program can do and look at the results of it.

- Our main focus has been making sure we get the numbers that's necessary to house the fifth grade, if not, as we've said, on several occasions, we only have 28 seats left.
- You consider that our lowest seat is 52 as far as those lower grade levels. Then, you know, 28 seats, are not doing anything but hurt our school.

- Father Raphael state he was a little perplexed at the way they divided, I was not expecting there to be that double sided vote. I was just kind of confused about this doesn't make sense that they would approve the one and take such a hard line with the second. Can somebody help me with?

- James Cobb: Yes, absolutely. Father. What you have to understand is, is that this is an administrative process. And anytime there's an administrative process, there is an opportunity for both parties to speak. And so that doesn't necessarily mean that it's adversarial, even though there's different party positions. But there's an administrative process and it allows for both parties to speak.
- I think this is a bit of a learning opportunity for us as an organization to be able to make sure that we submit, we submit proposals to, to that department that say, listen, here's some options. But I fully intend to write a proposal to the board that's going to really spell out that you cannot approve one and discriminate against the other.
- In reality, what they've said, they approve your fifth grade, but by not increasing the number of seats will allow you to fail. And so, there's a tenet in constitutional law that says that you can't approve one thing, just to, you know, seem like you are approving the issue, in reality it only degrades the issue.
- Father Raphael: If you graduate 20% of the fourth graders, you matriculate them into fifth grade, and you bring in 50% of the kindergarteners, we lose.
- I think the big learning lesson here is maybe the way that we approach things in the future is that we say we need this may cease but we will Like an approach and display thing, right?
- Mrs. Stevenson, we were the first charter and started our numbers low not knowing that charters were going to come. This was over 20 years ago. We are just seeing the growth & impact. Being the first charter, we did everything by trial & error.
- Mark Faulkner: We were granted 250 seat 20 years ago without a seat increase.
- The reading success is being used across all grade levels, PreK – 4th.
- We received a grant to pay tuition for two students for 6 months. The total is \$3000

Board of Directors Chair Reports by James Cobb

- If the seat increase is not granted, my suggestion is to fill all seats.
- Complete all required continued education Board Ontrack training by January 30th.
- Give a plausible way to say YES.
- We are going to grow at as an organization.
- Great momentum from receiving grants. We need finances to succeed. Reach out to Dr. Hytche & Dr. Hargrove & ask for access to funds to make our school a better place for our children. We need everyone to help.

2021-2022 Budget Report by Father Raphael

Committee Report by James Cobb

- Board Committee – no formal report
- Adhoc Committee – working to bring future projects to the school.
- Fundraising Committee - no formal report
- Board Development – no formal report
- Education Development – no formal report
- The Board Members are invited to submit new recruits at any time to the board.

NEW Business/OPEN ITEMS

- Complete all required continued education Board Ontrack training by January 30th.
- Send a copy of the certificate to Mrs. Stephenson.

A motion to adjourn was made by Father Raphael and seconded by Dr. Christy Marrs. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Directors Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting minutes were taken and presented by Ramona Johnson