

HARAMBEE INSTITUTE of SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Public Meeting

Wednesday, April 17th, 2019

6:00 p.m-8:00 p.m.

John Skief Hall

Board Members:

Present: Maurice Baynard, Larry Bell, Lakeisha Creighton, Joe Foster, Donna Holmes Lockett, Charis Jackson, C. Wade Mosley, Marirose Roach, Renee Whitby

Absent:

Quorum present?yes

Others Present:

CEO, Dr. Kimberly Harris via conferencing

CAO, Gregory Shannon

Director of Special Educ., Angela Vann

Safa Robinson, EA

Gabriella, Charter School Consultant

Proceedings:

- ***Executive Session*** called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair, Maurice Baynard
- ***Board Presentations***

-Laronda Thompson, University of Pennsylvania student research proposal Presentation.

Laronda, accompanied by two additional Penn students, proposes to carry out a study of Afrocentric schooling and best practices in educating black students through interviews and focus groups of students, teachers, and administration. Research would begin late April 2020, terminating in December 2020.

Mama Marirose asks for written proposal and contacts

-Angela Vann, HISTCS Director of Special Education Presentation

Detailed overview and PowerPoint presentation of the SPED dept 18/19 progress, challenges, goals, and how the HISTCS SpEd department is creating a culture of talking about SPED as Unique Learners.

- **Open session** called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair, Maurice Baynard
Marirose Roach, exited meeting

- **Review of last month's minutes** all in favor no opposed to accept minutes

- **Chief Executives' Report**, CEO, Dr. Kimberly Harris
 - Harris reports key highlights from the **CFO, CAO, and CEO's monthly reports**. Academically, PSSA testing is carrying out smoothly without incident, Principal Shannon reports the climate is exciting around testing. HISTCS is trending in the right direction, data sets move incrementally climb will not occur overnight, well on our way to high functioning school.
 - Teacher observations, personnel conversations, reorganization of personnel to capitalize personnel expertise per grade level.
 - Upcoming events, the leadership retreat planning is underway to reset priorities for 19/20; Annual Afrikan Street Festival committee planning is underway, Civic Capital Consultant, Monique Curry-Mims to ensure the Street Festival is a fundraiser.
 - Updated 19/20 Calendar is submitted for your approval.
 - Thornton requests full leadership retreat budget for finance committee discussion.
 - Facilities, outsourcing continues.
 - IT/CAO updates camera updates have been applied. IT office recommends an overhaul of security system and network, recording/hosting; remains a top priority.

 - Lottery was held April 11 over 100 students waitlisted. Harris and Principal Shannon report the process of re-enrollment smooth, timely, and accurate count with no complaints or concerns to their knowledge. The board can look for Principal Shannon to give suggestions and solutions to enhance the process to a shorter time frame for next school year. Enrollment packets will be going out, and Principal Shannon will ensure teachers know details of 19/20 prior to school year.

 - Harris yields the floor to Baba Shannon to speak about Mama Renee's Culture of Harambee Professional Development for 2 mins. Shannon expressed his thanks to Mama Renee with a sincere debt of gratitude, Harris noted need for ongoing occurrences of Culture PD. Mama Renee is interested in working with the school and support more consistently. Board expressed it's thanks all around.

- **Finance Report** highlights, by CFO, Michele Thornton
 - Audit RFP and timeline on website as of today, invitation only to 5 firms, recommendations from CSO of successful audit firms, Thornton will forward to board and anyone else interested.
 - Food service RFP, Donald Redmond will do walk-through on Monday, Creighton is an additional evaluator.
 - COH went up from prior months, process and steps to end year with compliance bond purchases.

-HR: Fully staffed, no area currently insufficient.
Harris yields floor to Baynard

- **Board Vote**

-8 members present

- **5 items**

1. **19/20 school calendar**
2. **19/20 Budget**
3. **School Board policy change sec 1 & 2**
4. **Grading and retention policy**
5. **SpEd Agreement**

-19/20 School Calendar

Bell puts forth MOTION to approve, seconded and passed

-19/20 Budget

-Baynard requests any outstanding issues; following confirmation of no issues or questions, Mosley makes a MOTION to accept the 19/20 BUDGET, seconded by Bell, ALL in favor, NO opposed, NO abstained.

-School Board policy change sec 1 & 2

Sec. 1 description of school program, mission, vision. Sec. 2 clarifying the function of government. Baynard proposes to revisit, take a vote, and publish the vote publicly in the coming week.

-Thornton noted concerns on the Personnel Policy and submitted a recommendation for personnel committee to have input in advance to making recommendation to the board.

-Baynard proposes Foster and Roach, committee members, put recommendations in a document for board presentation next month. Board members to send questions to Foster and Roach prior to next meeting; Mosley interested in joining the conversation.

-Grading and Retention Policy

Harris lends that from comprehensive board policy manual a parent handbook can be extracted. After discussion of timeline for completion and distribution of board policy manual Foster makes a MOTION to adopt the Grading and retention policy, Bell seconds, abstention from Whitby and Mosley, 6 votes it passes Creighton, Jackson, Baynard, Holmes-Lockett, Bell and Foster.

-SpEd Agreement

After a brief discussion of the issue, services, progress monitoring, documentation and goals a MOTION to accept the terms of the agreement is proposed by Foster, seconded by Mosley and passed unanimously.

- **Other business**

- Jackson recommends to re-open discussion to change uniforms. Harris notes that a uniform change was passed, and implementation will begin 19/20 school year.
- Baynard asks if Monique Curry-Mims can present during next month's meeting.
- Jackson announced a call for volunteers for the street festival and water donations. All present agreed to donate water and have it delivered, cost and order to be finalized at next board meeting.

- **New Business** Foster inquires about proposal for summer program. Baynard comments that the proposal was directed to Harris and Shannon.

Action Items:

- Foster and Roach, committee members, put recommendations in a document for board presentation next month. Board members to send questions to Foster and Roach prior to next meeting
- Costs and order of water donation for next meeting

Public Concerns

Mosley submits MOTION to adjourn seconded by Foster, no opposed

-Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

-Minutes submitted by Safa Robinson

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 17th , 2019