



Minutes / 5-4-21

Location: PODER Academy

A. Attendance: Marcos Martinez, Nick Avila, Robert Salazar, Carlos Reyes, Yara Kling, Kristina Moritz

B. Approval of Agenda

1. Bob motion to add gym tour to the agenda (6:04pm); affirmed unanimous
2. Kristina motion to approve agenda (6:04pm); affirmed unanimous

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Bob motion to approve minutes (6:05pm); affirmed unanimous

D. Public Comment

1. No public comment at this time.

E. School / COVID-19 update

1. WY TOPP – testing is now complete
 - a. Can not disclose scores until window has closed
 - b. Early indications show exceptional performance despite COVID year
 - c. Kristina – how does this compare to years passed?
 - i. Marcos: Most classes exceeded projections, certain classes were well beyond levels seen prior to the pandemic
 - d. Yara – Students benefited from in-person learning
 - i. Marcos: We encouraged kids to return during the pandemic
 - ii. Remote learning students in the District did not take WY TOPP; score comparisons to PODER may reflect this
 - e. Bob – how did kids online compare to kids in school?
 - i. Marcos: there was not a large disparity at PODER, the Secondary school saw a significant disparity in scores
 - ii. Avila: many schools across the country never fully opened, students and parents were greatly burdened by this
 - f. Marcos: PODER will likely maintain excellent ratings on sites such as Great schools.org and Niche.org despite the chaotic year
2. Student Enrollment – enrollment for next year is up significantly
 - a. Looking at options to potentially add classrooms in coming years
 - b. No decisions have been made in this regard
3. Tennis season – kids will practice at PASS until gym at PODER is complete
 - a. Will travel to Fort Collins for most tournaments
 - b. New tennis instructor will manage the program
4. Only 1 month of school left
 - a. Field trips planned, more project-based curriculum

5. Chess team
 - a. Kids placed at the recent state tourney; received a trophy

F. Budget Approval (Revised 20-21' & 21-22')

1. Summary: Marcos
 - a. Just over \$600,000 cash balance
 - b. Will seek to maximize 1st round of CARES Act
 - i. More stimulus-related federal funding expected
 - ii. We expect reimbursement for qualifying purchases
 - c. PODER currently offers highest grade of benefits creating large cost
 - i. Cost for dual employees will shift to PASS, lessen burden on PODER
2. Bob: Why such a large variance for certified salaries?
 - a. Marcos: did not anticipate the number of extra staff needed; addition of bus monitors and other support staff not anticipated
 - b. Will see if salaries for bus monitors can be reimbursed under CARES Act
 - i. Monitors grade exit tickets which benefit educational program
3. Bob: Concerned about certified expense shortfall, is this going to be corrected?
 - a. Marcos: Hoping CARES funding will serve to close this gap
4. Bob: What happened in 2020 to create the cash balance dip?
 - a. Marcos: timing of reimbursements and loss of Title 1 funding
 - b. Kristina and Yara – Need to get out the word about Free / Reduced apps
 - i. Have parents complete applications upon enrollment
 - ii. Have staff presence at Back-to-school to encourage applications
 - iii. Educate parents as to how Free / Reduced impacts the school
 - iv. Carlos: maybe look at incentives to encourage participation
5. Bob: Website expenses seem very high
6. Marcos & Nick not taking salary increases
7. Kristina motion to approve Revised 20-21' Budget (7:10pm); approved unanimous
8. Yara motion to approve 21-22' Budget (7:11pm); approved

G. CEO Evaluation

1. Marcos: Not requesting a salary increase for next year
2. Bob: would like to streamline evaluation tool, focus on specific indicators
3. Standard 1 focus on B, Standard 2 focus on C, Standard 3 focus on C and E, Standard 4 focus on C, Standard 5 focus on C, Standard 6 focus on A
4. Evaluation notes and ratings are recorded on the evaluation form
 - a. Available upon request

H. Executive Session

1. Kristina motion to enter Executive Session (8:23pm); affirmed unanimous
2. Yara motion to exit Executive Session (8:28pm); affirmed unanimous

I. Next Board Meeting

1. Tuesday, August 17th (6:00pm) – PODER

J. Adjourn – Bob motion to adjourn (8:34pm); affirmed unanimous