

Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – Monday, June 24, 2024, 10:45 am - DRAFT

Location: HCCPS, Zoom

Present:

In-person: Emily Boddy, Kathleen Hulton, Grace Mrowicki, Lily Newman, Kylan Mandile, Kate Ewall, Ben Carlis, Tala Elia

By Zoom: Stacey Giufre, Matt Dube

Regrets: Kathleen Szegda, Kelly Vogel, Rebecca Belcher-Timme, Tiffany Ross, Kate Saccento, Laura Davis

Guests: Andrea Hermans, Nicole Singer

Facilitator: Kathleen Hulton

Notetaker: Emily

Topic	Discussion	Action (if necessary)
Introductions (Kathleen H)	<p>Those present introduced themselves to candidate, Chris Kusek, their connection to the board and to the school.</p> <p>Chris introduced himself and why he’s interested in this role.</p>	
Q & A with Board and Head of School Candidate, Kathleen H, Lily (Discussion)	<p>Q about the charter - cooperative nature, how to connect to the community at large and families</p> <p>A Aligned with the mission of the school, great latitude for schools to blaze their own path, but with accountability. Balancing benchmarks with the mission is essential - parents should have the opportunity to choose and protections for students to ensure they are accountable.</p> <p>Q What do you consider to be the schools greatest challenges/strengths moving forward</p> <p>A Strengths: based on founding principles and the people that enact the principles; potential to serve students of all abilities in ways that are unique and inspire student engagement not seen before. Collaborative where teachers are empowered to design the systems in which they serve. Parent partnerships are essential, and the system in place here to enable that.</p> <p>Addresses epidemic of mental health concerns not</p>	

	<p>faced before in public education - must have dialogue about how we meet that. Strength here is in size, will, governance structure.</p> <p>Q Visibility among students A Spark of job, speaks to style - interested in positions that have student engagement. Wouldn't want to be in a role that is separate from students. Balanced with executive responsibilities - that work is richly informed by being front facing, meeting with students and families. Everything we do is in service to our students.</p> <p>Q Discipline and approach to discipline, ensure all kids are learning A would understand teacher approaches, continue on the work happening and also help to solidify common norms expectations. Helping kids with dialogue and conflict resolution will help them long term</p> <p>Q Change is hard, how do you hold this A Great value in institutional history and knowledge. And any organization needs to evolve - hold both things. Needs change, always an evolution. Ineffective/absurd to come in and give the answers, change the culture. Would like to come in and help staff, families, come together in community and enact the values here. Excited as he aligns with the values here. His style is a listener, hear perspectives, synthesize without putting in conflict, help facilitate dialogue which will lead to change.</p>	
<p>Candidate questions for Board, Kathleen H. (Discussion)</p>	<p>Asked what we'd like to see in a new leader in the next 3ish years.</p> <p>Members responded.</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:20</p>	<p>Kate E motioned to adjourn; Lily seconded; the meeting was adjourned.</p>

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Guests: Andrea Hermans, Nicole Singer

Facilitator: Kathleen Hulton

Notetaker: Emily

Topic	Discussion	Action (if necessary)
Introductions (Kathleen H)	<p>Those present introduced themselves to candidate, Ervin Santiago, their connection to the board and to the school.</p> <p>Ervin introduced himself and why he’s interested in this role.</p>	
Q & A with Board and Head of School Candidate, Kathleen H, Lily (Discussion)	<p>Q How do you see the overarching principles of the school being implemented? A Cites the model is different from other experiences; member of team or leading the team, doesn’t change the way he engages in the process</p> <p>Q What do you see as the major strengths and challenges going forward? A Strength - engagement, play multiple roles but all focused on having kids succeed; Challenges with space in the school, perhaps a focus on growth - would try to discern the best, most efficient way to resolve/solve for this</p> <p>Q Discipline, ensuring all children are learning A Tends to deal with each person in front of them rather than have a prescribed system of discipline; must have clear expectations for behavior are. Not admin quick to suspend. Communicate, model behavior, use progressive discipline.</p>	

	<p>Q Models of restorative practices, how do they come into play with discipline A Discipline lies with the relationship between teacher and student. Repair and resolve. Proactive interventions to avoid further behavior issues.</p> <p>Q Change is hard, how to balance coming in as a new leader with veteran teachers and staff A The ability to explain that his job is to support, servant leadership, ask a lot of questions</p> <p>Q How do you connect with students A Arrive early to do paperwork so can be community facing during the day - eating lunch, greeting at the door</p> <p>Q JEDI, how to engage in this so there is more of a sense of belonging A Ask the kids what they think we should be doing, asking staff, incorporating activities that celebrate differences to generate interest and educate people.</p> <p>Q How do you bring parents in, help us ensure that parents/families who feel on the margins are included, feel welcomed and heard A Reaching out, asking them to come in. This can be sensitive. Ability to attract parents or students, honestly bring in and take into consideration what they are saying. Have meetings, even in open communication there can be fear and discomfort, tries to be sensitive.</p> <p>Q how do you approach getting to know your new staff, and how did you support staff in previous roles. A About half of his staff have followed him to his other roles for ten years. Open relationships, ready to talk and listen. First responsibility is to make sure everyone in his building has a sense of being welcome.</p> <p>Q What do you see as ways of building community partnerships? A Would ask staff what we have around here - resources; ask what has happened historically; start planning. No shame asking for resources.</p>	
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<p>Candidate questions for Board, Lily. (Discussion)</p>	<p>Q Where do you see your HOS in three years? A Attending to LRP; structures to support systems and policies in place to move pieces forward; that we are aligning resources to our priorities; Centering student voices</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:15</p>	<p>Tala motioned to adjourn; Kate seconded; the meeting was adjourned.</p>