ORTON ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

February 6th, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81747566659?pwd=aFZGOTlDdlRvb210ajBDSXljMlljUT09

5:00 Meeting Call to Order
- Welcome
- Roll Call/Introduction of Guests
  - Present: Anne Boris, Ted Harvey, Jenny Wilson, Dan Snowberger
  - Guests: Cindy Kanuch, Anita Arnold, Shannon Gossard, Andy Franko, Amy Odell, Mary Dunn, Alisa Morse, Kathy Stroud, Brad Miller
- Approval of Minutes (January)
  - Motion to approve: Jenny Wilson, second: Ted Harvey, all approved

5:05 Orton Academy Principal's Report
- Enrollment Update
  - Opened registration link and sent intent to return forms to current students.
    - 60% have returned intent to return and all but a couple were a yes. 87 registered currently.
- Marketing Update
  - Orton attended the School Choice Fair.
    - Networking with other schools and providers.
  - Booking tours through the end of February.
- Mid-Year Data Update
  - Cindy shared with the Board mid-year data to show student growth.
- Staffing Update
  - Looking to fill a teacher position and a paraprofessional position

5:15 Finance Committee Update
- Financials are healthy and on track with budget.
- We received good news for an increase in PPR funds and will need to do a supplemental budget.

5:25 Grant Committee Update

- Science grant - Ordered Lego robotics and have field trip scheduled. Also received additional funding for explorer lab and to transition the field trip to a full day versus a half day.
- We were awarded the EASI grant.
- Jenny is reaching out to Comcast to seek funding for smart boards.
- Jenny will also engage with Joanna Lindstrom to invite her to the next grant committee to discuss options for grant ideas.

5:30 SAC Update
- Transitioned to meeting every month.

5:30 Nomination Committee
- Email sent to parents and Orton community inviting applications to join the Board.
- We will be accepting applications through February.
- Anne Boris and Jenny Wilson will review applications after the deadline and schedule interviews.

5:35 MEG Update
- District 11 Contract Update
  - Contract is being worked on but will be put on hold temporarily until Orton determines if we want to continue as a Charter school or an Innovation school.
- Discussion of Innovation school model
  - Anne shared a brief description of an Innovation school. It is not a charter school. There is autonomy, the Board maintains oversight, but school gets to leverage all resources that district schools have access to.
  - Brad Miller, attorney, attended the Board meeting to share more information on the Innovation school model.
    - Is a district school.
    - D11 facility usage questions brought up the idea of moving to an Innovation school.
    - D11 is excited to consider Orton as an Innovations school.
    - Pros
      - D11 would provide a district facility to Orton.
      - Orton can maintain independent governance with the current Board.
      - Orton would control culture, ownership over leadership, right of refusal on district employed teachers, control curriculum, etc.
      - Still eligible for waivers.
    - Cons
      - Loss of some control.
        - Financials would flow through D11.
        - They would control food service, transportation, HR, etc.
        - Could have an impact on staffing.
    - Consideration

- May be the last year to be eligible for charter school.
- MEG contract
- Staff
- Turnaround status

  - The Board decided to extend the contracting timeline for three weeks for the Board to explore all options. The Board will work to set up time with D11 to get more information.

5:45 Public Comments

- Mary Dunn spoke about the turnaround status and wants to ensure that it is taken into consideration when making a final decision on moving to a charter or an innovation school.

5:50 Old Business/New Business

- Board Training: Andy Franko lead a discussion with the Board about communication policies and procedures.
  - Orton must post notice of a Board meeting 24 hours in advance.
  - Any time there is a majority of the board present, either meeting virtually or in person, it is considered a meeting, and a meeting notice must be posted 24 hours in advance.
  - Open meetings must be recorded with meeting minutes.
  - Andy shared information on Executive sessions.
  - Andy also shared that parent board members need to always be mindful of their fiduciary responsibility.

6:57 Motion to move into executive session: Ted Harvey; Second: Jenny Wilson; all approved

- Entering into executive session for sole purpose of discussing a personnel matter as authorized by statue 24-6-402(4)(f).

- In attendance: Anne Boris, Jenny Wilson, Ted Harvey
  Guests: Cindy Kanuch and Andy Franko

7:12 Motion to exit the executive session: Ted Harvey, second: Jenny Wilson, all approved.

7:15 Motion to Adjourn: Ted Harvey, second: Jenny Wilson, all approved.