



COMPASS Mission: Fostering lifelong learning and empowering individuals to take responsibility for themselves, their learning, and their community.

Compass...for Lifelong Discovery Board of Directors - November 16 2023

Board Members Present:

Jeffie Butler
Cathie Farrar
Molly Haberman
Aimee Cullwick
Maribel Obreque
Jenny Jones
Katie Erickson
Joe Enzer
Jim Gilchrist

Administration Present:

Michael Hayes
Adrian Bradley
Ellie Hahn
Casey White
Sam Richings-Germain

Call to Order/Decision: Approve the [Agenda](#). Motion by Maribel. Second Jim. All in favor

ACS Presentation of Learning: Garry Pfaffmann, 7-8 superhero. Writing class- presentations of mentor projects and Interdependence journals

Open forum/Public comment: None.

Decision: Approval of [October 19, 2021](#) minutes. Motion to approve Katie. Second by Molly. All in favor.

Decision: Compass Participation in Colorado Strategic Growth Institute with Colorado League of Charter Schools (CLCS) and Bellwether. Bill Knous. [Slide Deck](#)

Would Compass contemplate taking part in Strategic Growth Institute. Strategic partnership in deciding where how and when we would be expanding our mission

- Reviewing CO 2023 performance data: marginalized communities have increasing difficulty accessing high quality education.
- CLCS role would be as a connector: Bellwether cohort, helping figure out if we are a good 'match' for expansion.
- CCSP grants available for \$300,000-\$400,000. This most recent grant cycle, the State of CO is giving feds back \$10-\$15 million in unused funds. A number of schools applied, but issues in connection and stewardship resulted in not getting approved, not getting the funds.
- Idea is to ensure more kids have access to quality schools.
- Believes strongly in Michael's leadership, very rare to have schools like ours with these parts and pieces in place: strong school leadership and strong Board
- Value in third party analysis of our program. Challenges in rural vs front range to meet these criteria.

Discussion

- Opportunity to affect more children positively
- Board priorities- how does this fit in?
- Is there a responsibility for our organization to expand our program? To increase access to high quality education for children currently unable to access?



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- Some donors are attracted to bold vision
- Critical to contemplate capacity in any conversation: starting new project would significantly impact capacity of Board, of Michael, etc
- Celebrate the success of being singled out: 268 charter schools in CO, 5 are being asked

Motion by Jeffie: Does Compass want to participate in the Strategic Growth Institute cohort?

Aye: Jeffie, Molly, Maribel

Nay: Cathie, Jim, Aimee

Abstain: Katie, Jenny

Information: [CCS Academic Performance Presentation](#).

- Who are we? Increasing # of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch (FRL).
- Slide shows increase in diverse student body. Goal is to have CCS student body reflect demographic of community.
- Goals: by end of this year, 100% of teachers utilize highly effective instruction and social emotional learning strategies to engage all learners. Partnership w parents.
- Leverage MTSS process to embed high expectations for learning
- CMAS, NWEA and DIBELS data: ELA & math. Beginning, middle, end of year. Multiple assessments points allow for targeted support
- Noticing the big difference the smaller groups make for kids
- CMAS growth: cohort vs baseline: slide that explains which data answers what question.

Questions/discussion

- How do you feel about the interventions and what are you seeing right now: are you satisfied with the interventions in place, do you need more?

Resource intensive in terms of people & training, but making a huge difference for students

- Do you have the resources to train up your staff?

Somewhat. Example of needing an extra \$15,000 last year to send 4 teachers to the expeditionary learning training that the District adopted. Could not do that. But is sending all K-4 teachers to OG training. Foundational.

- Discussion about what Board can do to support?

Funding disparities: CCS does not have a math interventionist, does not have additional staff in classrooms, does not have a reading interventionist. Does not have as much money for professional development. Staff making 14% less than RFSD counterparts. **Michael discuss with Sam, bring list of needs to Board.**

Thank you to Sam for this high quality presentation and for the work you are doing!

Information: Leadership Reports

ACS report:

Academics:

- CO READ act, required to submit reading plans. 50% of K students either on red or yellow. Similar to what they are seeing in the District and across the country. Possible explanations include changes in the benchmark measures, and these kids getting less preschool due to pandemic.
- Everyone doing more to lift the reading level of K-3 kids
- Moving forward with a new math program in grades 3-8. Connie Hamilton assisting with this effort

Culture:



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- Work around bias: every classroom teacher has introduced the concept of bias and what that looks like. Wove into questions for veterans day. ACS in the newspaper with the headline of "Curiosity tackles bias at ACS"
- Safety: Highly encourage Board to consider upgrading preschool/admin building to allow for increased security.
- Continuing work with CU Boulder safety program, moving through list of priorities: Data showing that hardening buildings is less effective than softening what is happening inside. CU Boulder works with 41 schools: ACS received the highest level that their team has ever seen for culture and community.

Information: Development Update. [Development Updates](#)

- One of busiest times in year for fundraising
- Monster Dash was very successful, \$19,675 raised. Annual Fund tracking ahead of last year. CCS cap campaign 29% more to raise
- Annual Appeal: thank you to letter writers!
- Response to mailing is well above industry standard. Exceptional response rate and amount raised

Decision and Information: Budget and Finance

1. Compass 23-24 Revised Budget for approval in December. [Revised Budget](#)

- Budget cycle: Board approves initial budget in May, then revised budget in December. Included in District budgets in January.

Discussion

- Joe reiterating how important the fundraising campaign is. This budget does not allow any expense for debt service if we draw on the loan. Sharing that finance committee budget approval was not unanimous, due to this shortfall.
- Board please review and then reach out to Shannon if you have questions. **Be prepared to vote at December meeting**

2. CCS Capital Project Update: [CCS project working budget](#)

3. **Decision:** GCFMLD Grant Approval

- [GCFMLD Grant Agreement](#): need Board approval to accept this grant. Includes requirement for a 20% match.

Motion by Joe to approve GCFMLD grant with Michael having authority to administer the grant process in whatever manner he sees fit. Second by Jim. All in favor.

Board Information and Decision:

1. **Decision:** Board Officer Elections - Shift to December Board Meeting.
President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Come to meeting prepared to vote. If you are interested in one of these positions, contact member of Executive Committee with your interest
2. BOE elections and district information:
 - RFSD Joe will reach out to Betsy and Lindsay- invite to CCS.
 - ASD Sarah won one of the seats, waiting until end of month to confirm who the other one is
3. Committee Updates: Move to December.

Adjourn