

Youth Connection Charter School Annual Board Meeting & Election of Officers

MINUTES

2/28/2019

5:30 P.M.

**10 WEST 35TH STREET
Chicago, Illinois 60616**

TYPE OF MEETING	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING CALLED BY	Interim President Molina Alanis called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
OPENING REMARKS	Welcome
PUBLIC COMMENTS	None
ROLL CALL	<p>In Attendance:</p> <p>Mr. L. Alejandro Molina Alanis, Interim President, Dr. Fabricio Balcazar, Interim Vice President, Dr. Laura Johnson, Interim Secretary, and Members Mr. Daniel Jemison, Ms. Christine Bowden, Mr. Arthur Ward, Mr. Ronald Hearn, and Mr. James Lyles.</p> <p>Absent:</p> <p>Member Mr. Jermaine Morales</p> <p>A quorum was present.</p>
STAFF CONSULTANTS CAMPUSES	<p>Staff: Sheila Venson, Executive Director, Larry Vaughn, Assistant Director, Gersom Carrera, Cynthia Levi, Albert Buabeng, Clifford Rallins, Donna Santell-Cote, Doris Whittmon, Edwana Rodgers, Dr. Linda Goodwin, Dr. Traci Brown, Kimberly Hopson, Kendall Martin, and Alex Cruz.</p> <p>Others/Campuses in Attendance: YCCS Founding Member Dr. Robert Saddler, S. Krueger-UIC, S. Christian, A. Means and Representing West Town Academy High School were Principal Diane Rodriguez, Executive Director Keisha Davis-Johnson, Social Studies Teacher Kristen Gianaris and students Bianca Zelle, Zionna Silas, Daniel Davila, Jorge Zagal and Evelyn Nanes</p>
AGENDA	Opening Remarks, Public Comments, Roll Call, Reading of November 29, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes, Executive/Finance Committee Report, Financial Reports Ended November 30, 2018, December 31, 2018 and January 31, 2019, Director's Report, YCCS Annual Board Meeting and Election of Board Officers, and Adjournment.

Public Comments – West Town Academy Students

YCCS Executive Director Sheila Venson invited the West Town Academy students and staff to present their request for a policy change to the YCCS Board of Directors, renaming Christopher Columbus Day to “Indigenous Peoples Day” and to asked support from YCCS.

Kristen Gianaris, Social Science Teachers, indicated that staff and students have been working on this project since the beginning of 2018-2019 school year. Students Bianca Zelle, Zionna Silas, Daniel Davila, Jorge Zagal, and Evelyn Nanes, introduced themselves to the Board.

The presentation referenced the following:

- Rename Christopher Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day, because the Indigenous People were in America for thousands of years before Columbus arrived and the fact that Columbus did not discover America.
- Who was Christopher Columbus
- Columbus’ role in colonization and the cruel treatment toward Indigenous People and what led to enslavement of the Arawak people (men, women and children)
- Alternative Perspective
- Working to get other schools to join in solidarity for this change which has taken place at West Town Academy

Board Action

The YCCS Board thanked the students for their presentation and recommended that the Resolution be approved and the proposal be presented to the Principals’ at their next meeting and request support and signing of the petition. A final vote by the Board will take place at the next Board meeting after receipt of the petitions from the YCCS campuses.

Board Action

The YCCS Board of Directors approves, agrees and recommends that the holiday change be adopted by YCCS and the the YCCS schools changing Christopher Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

It was motioned to approve West Town Academy’s Resolution to change the holiday:

Motioned by Member Lyles Seconded by Member Molina Alanis

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In favor X Opposed Abstained

 X Vote carried 8 Vote did not carry

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the November 29, 2018 Board meeting minutes:

Motioned by Member Lyles Seconded by Member Molina Alanis

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In favor X Opposed Abstained

 X Vote carried 8 Vote did not carry

Executive/Finance Committee

The Executive/Finance Committee held a meeting on February 29, 2019.

In attendance: Interim President L. Alejandro Molina Alanis, Interim Vice President Dr. F. Balcazar, Interim Secretary Dr. L. Johnson, D. Jemison, R. Hearn, J. Lyles, C. Bowden, A. Ward, S. Venson, G. Carrera, A. Buabeng, L. Goodwin, and T. Brown.

Enrollment Issue

- The 2nd semester enrollment closed on February 15, 2019 and an analysis of the enrollment data was conducted by the Finance Department. The data indicated that enrollment is down 112 students from 1st semester which is a substantial loss of revenue to campuses.
A specific financial request was received from Truman Middle College H.S. which is the first request from Truman this school year and the request requires a vote from the Board.
 - Next Steps:
 - Design a sustainability plan
 - Meet with campus leaders to discuss their plans for a new program design or restructuring, etc.
 - Refer to Finance Committee for review

Board Action

It was motioned to support YCCS' campus Truman Middle College H. S. in the amount of \$65,600.00:

Motioned by Member Balcazar Seconded by Member Lyles

There **X** was or ___ was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In favor **X** Opposed ___ Abstained ____

X Vote carried 8 Vote did not carry ____

Executive/Finance Committee Report *(continued)*

- Alternative Schools Network (ASN) Receivables
 - Four YCCS campuses have several contracts with ASN in the amount of approximately \$800,000. An analysis was conducted for each campus by grant and funding to determine to what YCCS campuses will be affected, if there is a decision to terminate the ASN contracts until payments are made. We have received communication from ASN however there has been no concrete resolution to date. ASN indicated that \$300,000.00 would be wired on Monday, April 4, 2019
 - Next Steps:
 - Create and design a plan to minimize the financial harm to YCCS and our four campuses.
- Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP) – The State Board of Education has designated 13 YCCS campuses as lowest performing under the evaluation system (ISBE Report Card) that measures student mobility, post-secondary, 4/5 year graduation rates, chronic absenteeism, and SAT English Language Art and Math proficiency. The 13 campuses will receive supplemental funding to support school improvement.
 - Next steps – YCCS staff will create a folder in the Google Drive to give Board members access to Campus state report cards and any required data requested.

Resolution - Board Action

It was motioned to authorize and approve the 2018-2019 Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CWIP) and Budgets for the following 13 YCCS campuses to be submitted to Chicago Public Schools (CPS):

- Jane Adams High School
- Austin Career Academy
- Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School
- Chatham Academy
- Community Youth Development Institute
- Innovations High School
- Latino Youth High School
- McKinley Lakeside Leadership Academy
- Progressive Leadership Academy
- Academy of Scholastic Achievement
- Sullivan House
- Truman Middle college

Youth Connection Leadership Academy

Motioned by Member Hearn Seconded by Member Ward

There **X** was or ___ was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In favor **X** Opposed ___ Abstained ___

X Vote carried 8 Vote did not carry ___

Executive/Finance Committee Report *(continued)*

- The Board Election process was discussed and Board members received a copy in their individual folders. The elections are scheduled to take place today.

Financial Reports

Comptroller Buabeng presented an overview of the Financial Reports Ending November 30, 2018, December 31, 2018 and January 31, 2019:

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the Financial Reports Ended November 30, 2018, December 31, 2018 and January 31, 2019:

Motioned by Member Hearn Seconded by Member Lyles

There **X** was or ___ was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In favor **X** Opposed ___ Abstained ___

X Vote carried 8 Vote did not carry ___

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the February 28, 2019 Executive/Finance Committee report:

Motioned by Member Hearn Seconded by Member Ward

There **X** was or ___ was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In favor **X** Opposed ___ Abstained ___

X Vote carried 8 Vote did not carry ___

Director's Report

Mr. Carrera presented the Director's Report referencing the following:

- 65.78% Attendance Average
- 3594 Membership
- 85.81% Immunization
- 1203 Homeless Students
- 90.55% Lunch Form Compliance
- The CBE work is ongoing and campuses are expected to implement a minimum of 5 competency-based education expectations during the school year
- Post-secondary Initiatives/Dual Enrollment – There are 50 students enrolled for Spring 2019 classes
- Violence – There were 3 students involved in shooting incidents and are recovering from their injuries (MLLA, CCA, and YCLA).

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the Director's Report:

Motioned by Member Hearn Seconded by Member Bowden

There **X** was or ___ was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In favor **X** Opposed ___ Abstained ___

X Vote carried 8 Vote did not carry

Special Education January 2019 Report

Director Santell-Cote provided the following overview:

- Evaluation/FIE Compliance Completed - 99% completion
- Annual Review Compliance – 95.5%
- IEP annual Review – 99.5%

Dr. Balcazar indicated that he is in coordination with Dr. Cooke to prepare an EIR grant application that will provide internships and employment opportunities for students and also is seeking participation with KRA.

Board Action/Resolution

It was motioned to approve Interim Board President's recommendation as a formality to remove Member Linda Hannah from the Board of Directors due to a personal extended leave of absence.

Motioned by Member Ward Seconded by Member Hearn

There **X** was or ___ was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In favor **X** Opposed ___ Abstained ___

X Vote carried 8 Vote did not carry ___

Election of Board Officers

The 2019 Nominations for YCCS Board Officers were presented for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Each candidate was provided an opportunity to address the Board:

Daniel Jemison and James Lyles – **Treasurer**

Dr. Laura Ruth Johnson - **Secretary**

Ronald Hearn – **Vice President**

Christine Bowden and Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis – **President**

Election of Officers by Secret Ballot: Each Board member received the Ballot Form to select their candidate. If there is a tie vote, a second vote is to be taken. If there is an objection, the Board will publicly announce their votes. Board Liaison Cynthia Levi tallied the votes and announced the outcomes as follows:

President: Christine Bowden (3)

Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis (5)

Vice President: Ronald Hearn (7)
Secretary: Dr. Laura Ruth Johnson (7)
Treasurer: Daniel Jemison (3)
James Lyles (5)

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the 2019 Election of the following Board Officers for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as follows:

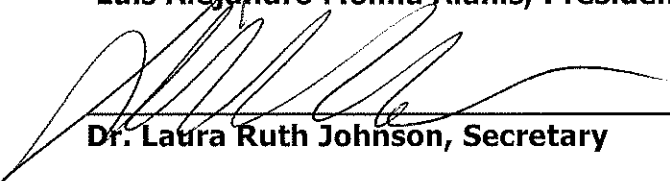
President – Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis
Vice President – Ronald Hearn
Secretary – Dr. Laura Ruth Johnson
Treasurer – James Lyles

Motioned by Member Balcazar Seconded by Member Hearn
There **X** was or was no discussion of the items.
Vote: In favor **X** Opposed Abstained
X Vote carried 8 Vote did not carry

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis, President



Dr. Laura Ruth Johnson, Secretary

Board Minutes Adopted: April 25, 2019