



Youth Connection Charter School Board Meeting

8/29/2024 5:30 P.M. VIRTUAL

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| TYPE OF MEETING | BOARD OF DIRECTORS |
| MEETING CALLED BY | Vice President Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:32p.m. |
| OPENING REMARKS | Welcome |
| PUBLIC COMMENTS | None |
| ROLL CALL | <p>In attendance: Dr. Laura Ruth Johnson, Vice President, Mr. James Lyles, Treasurer, Angela Gibson, Secretary, and Members, Mr. Arthur Ward, Dr. Richard Blackmon, Jr., and Dr. Jermaine Morales.</p> <p>Absent: Mr. Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis, President, Dr. Fabricio Balcazar, Senior Advisor, and Member, Ms. Christine Bowden.</p> <p>A quorum was present.</p> |
| STAFF | <p>Sheila Venson, Executive Director, G. Carrera, A. Buabeng, T. Brown, C. Rallins, K. Hopson, D. Whittmon, D. Santell Cote, L. Smith-Rayfield, A. Ballard, J. Scott, Y. Thomas and E. Morrow.</p> <p>Campuses/Others: N/A</p> |
| AGENDA | Opening Remarks, Public Comments, Roll Call, reading of 7.1.2024 Board Meeting Minutes, 8.29.2024 Executive/Finance Committee Report, Financial Reports Ending July 31, 2024, 8.29.2024 Directors Report, Board Actions/Resolutions and Adjournment. |

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the July 1, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes:

Motioned by Member Lyles Seconded by Member Ward

There was or X was no discussion of the item.

Vote: In Favor 6 Opposed ____ Abstained ____

X Vote carried 6 Vote did not carry ____

Executive/Finance Committee Report

The Executive /Finance Committee discussed the renewal revised timeline- based on the information shared by Executive Director Sheila Venson, who provided a summary that included that the CPS Board will make a renewal decision in Winter of 2025. The renewal criteria were reviewed, and the additions are added to the performance accountability metric including site visits.

Dr. Brown will provide a summary of the renewal site visits and ISBE Air visits during the regular board meeting.

The Executive/Finance Committee discussed the following regarding the renewal political strategy:

- Regional Public hearing structure was discussed given the updates provided by Executive Director; Sheila Venson.
- Political sponsorship has been obtained from various communities and they have agreed to support YCCS and our campuses. These are part of the renewal process that Options refers to as “State of the Schools” meeting for parents, community and other stakeholders.
- Board members will be invited to attend the Regional Meetings to provide a welcome or provide a testimony. Other educational partners will also provide testimonies (i.e. Chicago SEED/ Voorhees University, Howard University and Bowie State University).
- The Regional Meetings tentatively will take place in late September-October. These will also be videotaped and posted to the yccs.us website.

This political strategy will also be shared during the regular board meeting.

The YCCS Executive/Finance Committee reviewed the full agenda and approved it for the regular board meeting.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the Executive/Finance Committee Report:

Motioned by Member Lyles Seconded by Member Ward

There X was or ____ was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 6 Opposed ____ Abstained ____

X Vote carried 6 Vote did not carry ____

YCCS Board of Directors Meeting

The YCCS Board of Directors meeting covered several key points. The board confirmed a quorum and approved the minutes and financial reports. The renewal process for charter schools was discussed, highlighting delays and inconsistencies when comparing site visit evaluations by CPS versus AIR. The board expressed frustration with the lack of transparency and coherent scoring. A political strategy was outlined to counter CPS's actions, including outreach to local officials, media campaigns, and regional public hearings. The financial report showed a deficit of for the year ending June 30, 2024. The board also approved the governance change for YCCS West to Greater West Town.

Transcript

<https://otter.ai/u/sLhgNLojWrQPoixCWnTC3zm5Np8?view=transcript>

Site Visits and Evaluation Process

- Dr. Traci Brown explains the process of preparing for site visits, including submitting documentation and receiving summaries from the Option School Network.
- The board discusses the inconsistency in the evaluation criteria and the lack of a clear scoring system.
- Dr. Traci Brown and James Lyles discuss the differences between the evaluations conducted by the American Institute for Research (AIR) and the Option School Network.
- The board expresses frustration with the lack of transparency and coherence in the evaluation process.

Political Strategy and Community Engagement

- John Scott outlines the political strategy to counter CPS's actions, including outreach to local officials, media campaigns, and civic engagement efforts.
- The board discusses the importance of building strong community relationships and advocating for the network's interests.
- John Scott emphasizes the need for a cohesive message and strategy to present to CPS and the community.
- The board plans regional public hearings to engage with the community and gather support for the network.

Financial Report and Budget Update

- Dr. Albert Buabeng presents the financial report for the year ending June 30, 2024, highlighting a deficit.
- The deficit is attributed to timing issues and the depreciation of assets.
- The board discusses the financial status of individual schools, including YCLA, PLA, West, and McKinley.
- The board approves the financial report unanimously.

Governance Change for YCCS West

- Gersom Carrera presents a resolution to formalize the governance change for YCCS West to Greater West Town.
- The resolution includes the signing of a service vendor contract to make the change official.
- The board discusses the logistics of the governance change, including the transfer of staff and utilities.
- The board approves the resolution unanimously.

Director's Report and Enrollment Update

- Gersom Carrera provides an update on the director's report, including enrollment numbers, facilities walkthroughs, and compliance with CPS requirements.
- The board discusses the enrollment numbers, which are down from the previous year, and the expected increase in numbers by the end of September.
- The board emphasizes the importance of maintaining strong enrollment numbers to support the network's operations.
- The board approves the director's report unanimously.

Focus Groups and Board Preparation

- Sheila Venson informs the board about the upcoming focus groups and the need for board members to prepare for the questions they may receive.
- The board discusses the importance of being well-prepared and aligned to ensure a coherent narrative.
- Dr. Laura Johnson and other board members express their willingness to participate in the focus groups and provide input on various topics.
- The board plans to meet with staff to review potential questions and develop a unified approach for the focus groups.

Meeting Adjournment

- Dr. Laura Johnson calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which is seconded and approved unanimously.
- The board members express their appreciation for the meeting and the updates provided.
- The meeting concludes with a reminder to stay tuned for updates on the regional meetings and other organizing efforts.

Financial Report

Comptroller Buabeng presented Financial Reports Ending July 31, 2024, for review and discussion.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the Financial Reports Ending July 31, 2024:

Motioned by Member Lyles Seconded by Member Ward

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

Vote: In Favor 6 Opposed ___ Abstained ___

X Vote carried 6 Vote did not carry

Director's Report

Membership Status Summary

As of August 27, 2024 (see attached Accountability Summaries for Enrollment):

- | | |
|----------------------|------|
| • Attendance Average | N/A |
| • Enrollment | 1586 |
| • STLS | N/A |
| • Lunch Count | N/A |
| • Medical compliance | N/A |
| • YTD Drops | N/A |

Administrative

- Completed all Facilities walkthroughs with CPS architects
- Completed ADA bathroom work at YCLA

Strategic Operations (SOD)

The Strategic Operations Department conducted the following activities:

- Submitted Campus Leases
- Submitted Credit and Graduation data
- Submitted Board Schedule

- Submitted Attendance and Truancy Policy
- Submitted Asbestos Management Plan
- Submitted Transportation Policy
- Submitted Employee Salary Information

School Improvement -

The SI Department is a collaborator for YCCS' Roadmap to Renewal

1. Completed Spring Site Visit debriefs and Executive Summaries meetings with Options for the ten campuses that were April-May 2024. Collaborating with campuses for renewal Fall Site visits for seven campuses: YCLA, ASA, Sullivan House, CYDI, West, West Town Academy, and TMC Sept. 30-Oct. 30, 2024. *We have not yet received the Board Governance nor YCCS Organizational dates for focus group interviews.*
2. AIR (ISBE) Partner campus assessments to include interviews/surveys, classroom observations and focus groups. The following campuses were required due to their school report card designations: Chatham, YCLA, PLA, ASA, TMC, Campos, LYHS and Innovations. The next steps include an assigned ISBE School Improvement Specialist to thought partner with campus leadership teams, aligning learning partners and professional development to goals and targeted groups (i.e. Diverse Learners, ELL/ Bilingual and Socio-Economic/Poverty).
3. Assisting with YCCS Renewal Triage Strategy in collaboration with Voorhees/Chicago SEED Bowie State University and YCCS Teaching & Learning at the campus level to include instructional coaching, scripting focus group, day of preparation.
4. Visiting campuses to discuss enrollment, attendance and other performance matters in the first week of school.
5. BOY Star Testing window-Sept 3-24, 2024

YCCS New Teaching for New Learning Department

- 8/22 YCCS/Chicago SEED Summit 115 staff attended this event
- The Summit theme was for all seven campuses that will receive fall 24 Site Visits-Roadmap to Renewal
- YCCS Teaching & Learning, School Improvement, SOD and SPED facilitated sessions
- Chicago SEED and BSU facilitated sessions to support our strategies, instructional practices and SEL/Culture & Climate
- The following campuses attended the Summit:
 - ASA
 - CYDI
 - SHHS
 - WEST
 - WTA
 - YCLA
 - IHS (SPED)/ TMC (SPED)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Violence

- Since the previous directors' report There have been six students shot (Sullivan House - 5, Olive Harvey - 1). The students are recovering from their injuries.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the August 29, 2024, Directors Report:

Motioned by: Member Gibson Seconded by: Member Ward

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 6 Opposed _____ Abstained _____

X Vote carried 6 Vote did not carry

Board Action

It was motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:51pm:

Motioned by: Member Gibson Seconded by: Member Blackmon

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 6 Opposed _____ Abstained _____

X Vote carried 6 Vote did not carry

Board Minutes Adopted: September 26, 2024

DocuSigned by:

Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis
Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis, President

DocuSigned by:

Angela Gibson
Angela Gibson, Secretary