

Children's Village Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Dec 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:09pm by Chairman Roy Lanier. In attendance was Peggy G. Carr, who held the proxy for James Harper, Jessica Jones, and Gloria Carr-Battle.

Call for approval of November minutes meeting was moved by Peggy Carr, second by Lanier, and approved by the board.

The budget was not discussed in detail as Ms. Melba Lovick, the Financial Director, was unable to attend. She did provide information that the budget would be increased because the school was awarded a one-year iCARES grant for \$350k. Lovick will provide an updated budget at the next meeting once the grant funds are in place and all reimbursement funds from the ELISS grant have been received (approximately \$100k +). A more accurate picture would be available for the board's review at that time.

A brief discussion of the iCARES grant occurred. It has three major components: 1) support for closing the achievement gap of students impacted by COVID-19; 2) childcare support for parents who choose to continue virtual learning at home but supervision need help at home or in other safe spaces; 3) technical support for low-income families who need access to devices and the internet via the proposed TECHNOBUS.

Chairman Lanier was very helpful during the discussion regarding the TECHNOBUS as he has professional experience, designing, managing, and teaching class in a 53-foot transportation vehicle for Pitt County Community College's welding department. The large transport traveled all over eastern NC, including trade shows and conferences. He will be a valuable source as we convert an existing bus to our new TECHNOBUS.

Principal Jones gave the academic update. She reported that enrollment is holding at 165, and that on November 23rd, the school opened its doors to any family who was comfortable sending their child to school for direct instruction. Currently, about 85 students are attending class in-person across the two campuses. At the time, there were no report of COVID cases at the school. Social distancing was intact, and students and staff are wearing masks. Virtual assistants are still needed, even though academic PODS have been discontinued for now. This is because the assistants are necessary to help the classroom teachers who have students in the class as well as online.

Jones also reported that she is doubling down on the academic remediation. She has put in place a tracking system for students failing daily grade level iReady practice tests correlated with the EOG math tests. Students will be tracked daily, remediated by professional staff if they fail, and re-tested within days to keep them on track. The middle school system is in place, and one for the elementary school will be put in place once school resumes in January.

Regarding other issues, a discussion was held about the school bus that caught fire, with luckily no students in it, and the need to repair it. The board also discussed the need to hire school drivers and to complete the purchase of the pick-up truck.

It was decided not to hold a January board meeting because the school would be closed during the holidays and not much would have happened. The Chairman will check with staff, however, to determine if there is any news worthy of email communication during that time.

Chairman Lanier adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.

January Notes to be share with CVA Board Members

1/19/21

- One member of the CVA staff contracted COVID. She has not returned to the office and everyone in the Washington Street Administration Building was tested following the notification. No students were believed to have been exposed, and no other positive cases at CVA reported.
- Requests have come into the Board to purchase a shelter for the maintenance staff to work under during inclement weather. Robert Wilson previously looked into the purchase of such a shelter for \$17,000, but no decision was ever made. Similarly, a request to purchase a small storage unit has been discussed among the CVA staff. Currently, the school is renting a small storage unit off campus until the Board makes a determination of what should be done.
- The outdoor classroom for middle school – gazebo – is almost complete but is ready for use. It includes a security fence and landscaping. It was paid for by the ELISS and FEMA grants. Now, students can hold class outside where COVID is less likely to spread. The greenhouse outdoor classroom is currently being renovated.
- The large white door to the middle school classroom has been replaced using FEMA grant.
- Dr. Wilma Troublefield has been nominated for a seat at large on the CVA Board of Directors. A discussion of her nomination should be taken up at the February meeting. A brief summary of her bio and qualifications are below:

Dr. Wilma Troublefield is a highly qualified educator with over 40 years of distinguished experience. She has undergraduate and graduate degrees in special education and k-12 education. She attended Winston Salem State University, an NC HBCU. Her doctorate is in theology from NC East Carolina University. She has over 20 years teaching and mentoring in the public school system, which won her numerous awards of distinctions for outstanding work performance before she retired. Just as important to her nomination to the CVA Board of Directors, Dr. Troublefield has served faithfully and honorably for over 20 years as the Director of Special Education for Children's Village since its inception in 1997. Dr. Troublefield is highly dedicated to her students and to the philosophy that all students can learn. She is a seasoned, highly competent professional and well-respected among her colleagues. Dr. Troublefield retired from service at CVA in December 2020.