

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

January 10, 2024 at 6PM
Logan Square Campus
3255 W. Altgeld Street, Chicago IL 60647

Board Members Attending In-Person: Adnan Assad, Ronit Barrett, Stacey Blasko, Dee Dee Chesley, Roberto Interiano, Jeff Kemerley, Meghan Kiesel, Lauren Long, Alex Maturi, Carlos Pineiro, Candace Williams, Kim White.

Board Members Attending via Microsoft Teams: Rolando Acosta, Kenny Langston, Liam O’Kane, Dave Rodin

Board Members Absent: Jessica Cardoni, Steve Raquet, Homero Tristian, Angela Igbineweka-Obaseki, Lizzy Whitehorn,

Christopher House Staff Attending: Julie Dakers, Tihela Feit, Becky Seibel, Libby Shortenhaus, Chanel Wiley

Quorum Met.

Minutes Recorder: Chanel Wiley

Proceedings: Meeting called to order at 6:02PM

Welcome, Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Dee Dee Chesley called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no one present to make public comment.

Minutes and Consent Agenda, Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Motion was made by Adnan Assad, seconded by Alex Maturi, and carried unanimously to approve the November 8, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes.

DFSS HS CLASS FEDERAL REVIEW Presented by Dee Dee Chesley

Dee Dee Chesley, Board Chair, presented the board to be informed of our federal reviewing coming up in the next few months. DFSS HS CLASS federal review beginning 2/14 – 4/8 this means (i.e. additional adults will be in the classrooms, children will be videotaped, teachers will be assessed in emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support.

DBEI Task Force, Presented by Alex Maturi

Alex Maturi shared an overview of DBEI mission at Christopher House is to facilitate and support board engagement on DBEI-related topics impacting our community, partner with the leadership team to ensure equitable policies and practices, and proactively gather and act on feedback from our scholars, families, faculty, and staff to promote a culture of belonging and inclusion. Alex discussed our key principles and the five pillars of success which include:

1. **Board Diversity:** Proactively attract, retain, and elevate to leadership roles a demographically, cognitively, and professionally diverse Board.
2. **Board Transparency:** Encourage, facilitate, and create an open and transparent Board environment and framework for candid conversations about and education regarding DBEI-related topics.
3. **Equity in Policies and Practices:** Partner with the Leadership Team to review, develop, and refine policies and practices consistent with our principles of diversity, belonging, equity, and inclusion.
4. **Listen to Our Staff and Faculty:** Proactively gather and act on feedback from our staff and faculty about the challenges they face and opportunities they seek.
5. **Listen to Our Scholars and Families:** Proactively gather and act on feedback from our staff and faculty about their values, their experience at Christopher House, and their thoughts on how to strengthen our community both within Christopher House and beyond.

External Affairs, Presented by Jeff Kemerley

Jeff Kemerley spoke briefly about the revenue we received from OPUS Foundation, we received \$300,000 for the next three years, putting us ahead of where we were last year at this same time. The External Affairs team is getting ready to prepare for the annual benefit and if they haven't already will be reaching out to board members for support with sponsorship and donor outreach. It is anticipated that we will meet and exceed fundraising targets for the year, with the Benefit being our biggest push left.

Finance Committee, Presented by Adnan Assad

YTD financials are reviewed. Childcare Assistance (CCAP) funds continue to be unfavorable to the budget as few families opt to utilize the longer school day. In addition, updated expense projections are shared that include the increased salary expenses in our final union contract and consultants. A projected deficit is expected for the year.

Motion was made by Adnan Assad, seconded by Jeff Kemerley and approved unanimously to adjourn to closed session.

Open session resumed at 7:55.

Motion made by Alex Maturi, seconded by Roberto Interiano unanimously to approve the Board Resolution regarding the executive leadership structure including the appoint of Julie Dakers as Interim President and the revision of the CEO job duties.

Motion made by Jeff Kemerly and seconded by Kimberly White and carried unanimously to close the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58.