



Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, February 18, 2020, 5:00-7:00pm
At GALS-Denver

Board Members Present

Frank Rowe
Katie Kellen
Ed Likovich
Emily Wasserman
Ethan Hemming
Adam Burrows
Julie Fincham
Barbara Washington
Jennifer Evans
Jamaica Burke
Kristina Campos

Board Members Absent

Amy Friedman

GALS Staff

Carol Bowar
Dorian Bennett
Felicia Soifer
Trace Foust
Julie Dolin
Jen Green

Others:

Bill Bethke
Lisa Relou
Pam Horiszny

Jennifer calls the meeting to Order.

There are no members of the public present. There is no public comment.

Approval of the minutes is tabled until March.

Carol goes over the board deck and provides an update regarding First Round Choice.

The good news is that we're getting people in the door and people are liking us. There were 193 people who ranked us for GALS MS 6th grade (from 7th choice to 1st choice). There were 47 boys who ranked (from 7th choice to 1st choice) BOYS for 6th grade.

Based on the choice data and internal surveys, after First Round Choice, GALS MS is expected to be around 267-289 kids, GALS HS is expected to be 106-130, and BOYS is expected to be between 95-102. The Board asks questions about changes from last year, and is particularly concerned with why the number of people ranking us first declined.

Carol then provides an overview of what these enrollment numbers and the projections would mean for the budget. If we run three schools with 470 total kids, the network would be looking at a deficit of over \$1MM. Running just a 7th and 8th grade for BOYS also leads to a very large deficit, and we would be at risk to losing 7th graders.



Carol, Jamaica, and Pam recap the finance committee's recent meeting and discussion regarding the forecasted deficit. Carol reminds the Board that we approved a balanced budget in December. In January, DPS notified GALS that it was increasing PERA by .5%. DPS also increased the daily rate for purchased services. This led to the network going from having a balanced budget to having a deficit of approximately \$100,000.

Carol summarizes the situation as follows: Running three schools with projected numbers would bankrupt the network. Even running just two schools, the network would be looking at deficits. She explains that the tension is that running GALS/BOYS model is expensive, *and* we are committed to running this model in the best way we can.

The discussion turns to whether to close the BOYS School at the end of the year. Ethan recaps the history of the Board's decision-making process and the Sustainability Committee's work, including discussion on the sustainability of the high school. Ethan acknowledges that BOYS is special and reminds the Board that this process has been going on for months. He also discusses the various challenges that BOYS has had over the years, including dropping enrollment, SPF results, facility, staff turnover, and the needed reset this year to get us on track.

The discussion is then opened up to everyone to comment.

Felicia raises the issue that there are no BOYS parents on the Board (besides Carol). Other echo this concern. Jennifer reminds the board that Melisa, the BOYS representative resigned last month for personal reasons; and there has not been time to replace her.

Julie Dolin asks about the possibility of housing BOYS 7th and 8th at GALS. Carol explains that this was something that we considered and explored.

Trace notes that she was encouraged by the late conversations she has had with families; that there are families who appreciate the BOYS model. There is still enrollment concern. Discussion occurs around the fact that we cannot look at enrollment in a vacuum; and must consider other factors as well (facility, academic performance, classroom management, leadership), and the dramatic increase in numbers across all schools that would be needed for financial stability.

There is also a discussion about staff's incredible commitment and the "magic" at the BOYS school. The building is full of committed staff who deserve to be commended and the BOYS community is strong and devoted to the school.

Every member of the Board and every person in the room is given an opportunity to speak and voice their opinion. Discussion on waiting for a vote until later in the year would put staff and families at a large disadvantage for finding new schools, they would miss the choice window and hiring window.



There is discussion of the need to take care of staff. Carol asks for approval to offer a retention stipend. The request is approved.

Jennifer calls for a motion to close the BOYS school. Ethan moves. Adam seconds.
Jennifer takes a roll call vote:

1. Adam: Aye
2. Jamaica: Aye
3. Kristina: Aye
4. Jennifer: Aye
5. Julie: Aye
6. Amy (by proxy): Aye
7. Ethan: Aye
8. Katie: Aye
9. Ed: Aye
10. Frank: Aye
11. Barbara: Aye
12. Emily: Aye

Jennifer reads the February 18, 2020 resolution into the record.

Lisa discusses next steps.

The meeting is adjourned.