

Breakthrough Board Minutes - Complete
4/27/2023

Attendance:

X	Vivek Swaminathan, Parent rep Secretary
X	Kendra Harpster, Parent rep SHA President, Finance Committee
X	Katie Brown, Treasurer
X	Keith Whitescarver, Founder and former Board Chair
X	Michael Bing, Board member
X	Christopher Lohse
X	Sara Suchman
X	Betsy Romero
X	Juliette Berg
X	Maggie Kash
	Emily Hedin, Executive Director
	Raj Thomas, EdOps
	Patrice Feinstein, Compass

Community members: Emunah Ammi, Lisa Lipshultz, Keisha Igbazua

Thursday, April 27, 2023

5:00-6:30pm

Zoom:

<https://breakthroughmontessori-org.zoom.us/join/8gVVnCaKAR>

- I. 5:00pm: Call to order & Welcome
- II. 5:05-5:10pm: Approval of the Minutes from February 9, 2023 and March 22, 2023
- III. 5:10-5:40pm: Executive Director's Report and Discussion

- IV. 5:40-6:00pm: Public Comment
- V. 6:00pm: New Business
 - A. Finance Committee Update
 - B. Governance Committee Update
- VI. 6:30pm: Adjourn

Approval of the Minutes from February 9, 2023

Vote to approve minutes from February 9, 2023 and March 22, 2023. Approved.

Motion: Vivek
 Second: Kendra

A	Kendra Harpster	a	Betsy Romero
a	Keith Whitescarver	a	Michael Bing
A	Vivek Swaminathan	a	Sara Suchman
a	Katie Brown	a	Christopher Lohse

A=aye; N=nay

5:11 Board Report

- February financials are strong: Days of cash on hand at 101 (up from 97 in December). DSCR at 1.36 (up from 1.33 in December). The school is practicing strong cost control.
- Breakthrough has also received two grants: \$50k for reading materials and teacher professional development, and up to \$55k for our summer learning program. We are planning a modest spring fundraiser to support the creation of a school rain garden (\$15,695 raised in the fall).
- Enrollment for SY23-24 is strong with healthy waitlists
- Board would need to consider a long-term strategy for 6th grade since many students are leaving Breakthrough at the end of 5th grade. PK3-5 or PK2-6? Downside to Breakthrough losing 6th graders is a hit to PMF score due to appearances of attrition.
- Sara asked about feeder pattern to Truth and no progress was made
- Juliette asked why Breakthrough’s plan went through 6th, Emily and Sara explained that Montessori aligns to 3 year cycles. Sojourner Truth is 6-8 right now, but will plan to go through high school. Betsy confirmed mixed classrooms with 6,7 and 8th grade students
- LAMB goes to 5, changed charter, Lee goes to 6 with very small classroom, Shining Stars goes through 8, CapHill Montessori goes through Middle School

- AMS Accreditation requires 6 grade, DCPCS wants to see retention Katie asked about current state and offered to connect with AMS
- Plans to open 7th primary classroom to add students to remain financially stable
- Increasing student enrollment to 372 maintains programmatic integrity while also meeting financial KPIs, and increasing student enrollment at the younger level is the best option for ensuring programmatic integrity.

General Academics

- Breakthrough is preparing for spring testing (iReady, PARCC, and DC Science).
- We continue to track lessons given to students via Transparent Classroom. We analyze the average number of lessons given to students across classrooms and across disciplines.
- Question from Betsy regarding racial breakdown of testing - hard to assess sync across system changes to PowerSchool

Special Education

- Breakthrough has taken the following steps to improve Special Education compliance
- Audit of all IEP students and identified 17 students that could benefit from additional specialized instruction
- Emily explained IEP meeting compliance issues related to Breakthrough and service provider staffing issues with turnout and turnover - this is prevalent across DCPS.

5:38 Public Comment

- None

5:38 Finance Committee

- Currently on draft 3 of the FY24 budget
- Days of Cash: 109 and DSCR: 1.02
- Still need to reduce expenses by \$70k to meet 1.20 DSCR, but confident we can do this without weakening the academic program
- Key changes in revenue include: Addition of 7th primary classroom--Increase from 52 to 68 PK3s, enrollment target of 372
- 5.05% increase in UPSFF, 3.1% increase in charter facilities allotment
- Federal covid relief funding expiring
- Key changes in spending include: Rent going up 8%, Costs increasing for BC/AC, busing, and PD (teacher training)
- Open questions include:
 - Changes to substitute coverage
 - Changes to BC/AC contract
 - Resources to support math instruction Meeting to review budget in Progress
- Need to reduce \$70k of budget to meet DSCR threshold for FY24

- Summer program will be a break even offering for students to support students for grade level content - 3rd year
- Vivek had a question about DC Council commitment to teachers - FY24 budget is based on known revenue, no (still unknown) money controlled by DC Council (total \$59M earmarked for teachers) affects our current projections for FY23 budget - this money would be earmarked for bonus pay for Staff directly
- More detail on May 18, June finance committee meeting to prepare budget in June 15
- Question about special education community meeting - set for May 16

5:49 Governance Committee update

- Working with Compass on strategic plan, vision, goals and mission
- Vivek evaluating different vendors who can perform ED assessment, spoke with Robin Schenck

5:59 Adjourn