



## **Board Meeting Minutes**

A virtual meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Creative Minds International Public Charter School (the “School”) was held on January 25, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

The meeting was held over Zoom, given COVID-19 restrictions. The following Board Members participated: Dr. Neal Brown, Michael Curran, Imani Davis, Dionne Tyus Garvin, Dr. Lynn Jennings, Jeanelle Johnson, Navin Nayak, Matt Walker, Jennifer Wallace, Dr. Val Wise.

Also participating from CMI school leadership and staff: Chuck Jackson, Executive Director and ex-officio board member; Craig Bednarovsky, COO; Nayamka Long, CAO; Carlos Garcia, Jenn Andruzzi, Amita Lathigra, Lorna Dill, Margaret Ward, Abigail Sheffer.

### **1. Opening Items**

- Board Chair Dr. Val Wise opened with roll call of Trustees.
- Informed all that the meeting will be recorded.
- December 2020 Board Meeting Minutes were presented for consideration.
  - **The Board voted unanimously to approve the December 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.**
- Amended Bylaws submitted for consideration in December, posted publicly early January.
  - **Motion to approve Amended Bylaws passed 10-0.**

### **2. Report from Executive Director**

- CMI is still virtual; very few in-person situations happening. Unclear when DC will move from virtual to in-person.
- DCPS and DC Charter school staff vaccinations are on different schedules. Today was when charter staff was supposed to begin to be able to schedule vaccinations but site did not work.
- Surveillance testing process up and running—haven’t had any staff members who come into building who tested positive. Have had four staff members who haven’t come into building test positive; they followed protocols, stayed away from school.
- \$100 reimbursement sent to teaching staff to cover costs associated with virtual learning.
- Instructional staff presented at a progressive education conference; proud that their proposal was accepted.
- Three CMI students interviewed on MSNBC (link in ED report in Board Book).

- Planning for Eighth Grade graduation, likely virtual; have reached out to each student to help them determine where they will go next.
- Compensation survey is ongoing; results will be reported to board in spring.
- Informational coffees still happening with Chuck, Craig, and Nayamka.
- Surveying teachers for ability/willingness to return to in-person learning.
- Still planning for end of summer as earliest for possible full return to “normal.” Need to make sure each student is healthy and safe; and address social/emotional learning, in addition to learning loss.

### 3. Report from Committee Chairs

Each committee provided a description of its work and an overall update:

- AEC: Update from Lynn, Nayamka
  - In January, committee got updates from instructional leadership teams on where students stand academically.
  - Using Wednesdays for planning and teaching staff to work together and plan virtual learning; working well.
  - Students who took art in the fall will transition to music in the spring, and vice-versa.
  - Results from first administration of MAP assessments were a bit inflated, heard this from other schools as well; will still use it as a piece of data, along with teacher input. Pros and cons of MAP data reviewed.
  - Learned today that DC plans to continue with PARCC assessment this school year; many details are unclear.
  - CMI is up for quality site review; will happen virtually in March.
  - Overall, students are mostly showing up, doing ok.
  - Finding new ways to engage students and families is an ongoing challenge.
    - Talking with members of student council on how best to engage middle school students.
    - Considering pilot programs for afternoon activities so that small groups could spend time together, maybe start some clubs.
    - Open to any new ideas.
- Finance: Update from Jeanelle
  - Got report from Margaret on development goals; working to create monthly donation function on website.
  - Days of cash on hand: 79, \$3m cash on hand.
  - PPP loan forgiveness application submitted; likely approved in summer 2021.
  - Committee recommends the board accept new Form 990 as prepared by Finance Committee; Craig will send around and post in Board Book, plan to vote on it during next full board meeting in March.
- Governance: Update from Michael
  - Committee met to discuss need to find new board member (11<sup>th</sup> trustee overall) will seek trustee who can serve on AEC. All trustees asked to consider anyone they know who may be a good fit.
  - Per new bylaws, six board meetings now required per year.

- For rest of this school year, plan to meet in March and May, and have retreat in June. Committees can meet and work between meetings.
- Strategic Planning: Update from Dionne
  - Plan to focus on next steps on strategic planning in spring, given difficulties of the moment; will focus on this at board retreat.
- REDI: Update from Lynn
  - Revisited some past consultants to work on these issues with the board; received one proposal so far.
  - Plan to work on this in June at board retreat.
- **Board votes 10-0 to accept all reports as given.**
- **Open Q+A time response notes:**
  - No plan to require staff to be vaccinated before return to in-person learning.
  - Goal is to bring kids back into the school safely; taking lots of steps towards this, but no clear answers on when it can happen.
  - Any feedback and/or suggestions are always welcome.
- **Next meeting of CMI Board of Trustees is March 22.**
- **There being no further business to be transacted, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11.**
- **Executive Session (legal matter involving a student)**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matt Walker