



**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative  
APPROVED Minutes  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, January 10, 2018  
8:00– 10:00 @ CAP/RW**

**Board Members Present:** Robert McClain, Mary Jo McGuire, Karri Kerns, Rebecca Noecker, Toni Carter, Mary Vanderwert, Heather Kilgore, Alfreda Flowers, Bruce Thao

**Not in Attendance:** Jackie Turner, Christine Smith

**Staff Present:** Laurie Davis and Christa Anders (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Co- Coordinators)

**Guests Present:** Superintendent Joe Gothard

**Meeting called to order by Thao at 8:10 am.**

**I. Lighting of the Children's Fire**

McClain lit the Children's Fire with some reflections on the new year, including his own resolution to disengage from some obligations in 2018, NOT including the Children's Collaborative, due to the urgency of our work safeguarding the welfare of children. Our children come to us totally open, hoping to be filled with the many things children have to offer. How well they blossom depends on the nurturing and resources they receive from us. We must commit to providing the best support to all children, so they can all fully blossom.

**II. Consent Agenda**

**Motion to approve the Minutes from the December 13, 2017 Annual Board Meeting and accept the information contained in the December update from Advance Consulting and the December finance report. Second. Motion approved.**

### **III. Discussion with Superintendent Joe Gothard**

Superintendent Gothard shared his thoughts on the state of the district, his vision, and how the perception of the district is often different than what he experiences now that he's in the role of Superintendent. Some of the challenges he sees:

- SPPS needs to make the educational experience of students different than what they are experiencing today. Make sure students see themselves and their futures in what they experience every day in the schools.
- SPPS is undergoing strategic planning right now (5 year plan), hopefully ready for implementation next school year.
- Clarifying our model at all school levels – need to be able to articulate “who we are” so that can be supported in all buildings.
- The most important thing about making any change successful = communication.
- Getting close to being able to answer the question, “what do you need from the community to make this happen?”
- Will be reorganizing district leadership, now that he better understands the landscape.

Achievement – attendance matters, aligned curriculum with time for professional learning communities. Principals need to be instructional leaders, first and foremost, so they can focus on achievement.

Resources the SPCC could contribute: focused resources for grants, convening, Staff will prepare a short memo for the Superintendent about the past areas of focus, to provide some context.

### **IV. SPCC Retreat Planning**

Staff provided some background on how SPCC arrived at our current Youth Master Plan as our framework, in 2012.

Discussion – issues to consider for retreat:

- Our values and beliefs around children/youth, and what would it look like if we had a community that supported children/youth well.
- Technical Assistance Group – need, role to provide TA to partners at this table
- Better use the full power of this table – better collaboration around issues, maybe less presentation, more coordinated action, coordination of resources
- New superintendent, new mayor, and new county manager
- Stronger connection between staff and board members (committees?)
- Community needs assessment (CAP does one we might be able to use, Head Start has one under revision, Public Health community health assessment underway) – looking at data to see where the real gaps in the community might be
- Look at what other groups are doing that may overlap (My Brother's Keeper map, Youth Continuum of Care)
- How to be more strategic, efficient, data driven, grounded in community.
- Additions to this table: business (Chamber), foundations?
- Expansion of funding base, change to funding structure

- Expansion of the board membership
- Stronger coordinating role for child- and youth-focused convening

**Meeting adjourned 10:00.**

Agenda Items for Future Meetings – focus to get through some of these in December!

- SPPS Update: ACT scores, other outcome data, data disaggregation update (REA)
- Mayor-Elect Carter introduction
- African American Futures Initiative (Stephanie Battle) – April 2018?
- Interfaith’s new evaluation tool – Spring 2018
- Sharing information about funding opportunities with community partners
- Met Council come to talk about transportation
- New Chamber president - February

**Next Meeting: February 14, 2018 from 8:00 – 10am at CAP/RW.**