



Saint Paul Children's Collaborative
APPROVED Minutes
Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, December 14, 2016
8:15- 10:00 @ CAP/RW

Board Members Present: Robert McClain, Bruce Thao, Mary Jo McGuire, Mary Vanderwert, Heather Kilgore, Jackie Turner, Rebecca Noecker, Mary K Boyd, Anna Ross, Karri Kerns, Peter Grafstrom

Missing: Toni Carter

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

Visitors: Muneer Karcher-Ramos (Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood), Darcell Hill (Saint Paul Public Schools), Aria Ross, Jon Peterson (SPPS)

Meeting called to order by McClain at 8:25 am.

I. Call to Order and Children's Fire

Ross lit the Children's Fire with some words about going out into the cold, and thinking about the families who are still outside at Standing Rock. She also shared this quote:

Upon suffering beyond suffering:

The Red Nation shall rise again and it shall be a blessing for a sick world; a world filled with broken promises, selfishness and separations; a world longing for light again.

I see a time of Seven Generations when all the colors of mankind will gather under the Sacred Tree of Life and the whole Earth will become one circle again.

In that day, there will be those among the Lakota who will carry knowledge and understanding of unity among all living things and the young white ones will come to those of my people and ask for this wisdom.

I salute the light within your eyes where the whole Universe dwells. For when you are at that center within you and I am that place within me, we shall be one.

- Crazy Horse, Oglala Lakota Sioux (circa 1840-1877)

II. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the November 9, 2016 Board Meeting and accept the information contained in the November update from Advance Consulting and the November financial report. Motion approved.

III. Freedom School Presentation and Discussion

Muneer Karcher-Ramos from Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood and Dr. Darcel Hill from Freedom School gave an overview of the accomplishments and events from summer 2016 Freedom School program, funded in the Promise Neighborhood by SPCC. The board asked how/if the SPPS are carrying the effective components of the Freedom School back into the school classrooms. The elements are smaller teacher:student ratios, time on task, high expectations from all staff. It largely comes down to resources. The best place to start is the high expectations and support of families/parents. They are serving more children now, and they have driven down the cost per students, and the quality continue to increase. Ask that REA look at the children who've participated in Freedom School since 2012 – Attendance, Behavior, and Core Courses/Academics.

IV. SPCC Administration

In the 2017 budget approved by the SPCC board in November, there was \$110,000 for administrative support. The board discussed renewing the contract with Advance Consulting LLC to provide administrative support in 2017.

Motion to approve the contract for Advance Consulting LLC as submitted to provide administrative support to the SPCC board in 2017. Motion approved unanimously.

Board member Robert McClain's first three year term as community representative expires this month. He agreed to stand for a second three year term.

Motion to appoint Robert McClain to a second three-year term as community representative. Motion approved unanimously.

Alfreda Flowers was appointed to a three year term as community representative alternate at the November meeting of the SPCC board. Per SPCC convention, the current community representative alternate, Bruce Thao, would become a community representative (not alternate) at this point.

Motion to make Bruce Thao a full community representative effective January 2017. Motion approved unanimously.

V. Sharing & Discussion

Outgoing community representative served on the SPCC board for six years. She provided the following words of wisdom and advice to the SPCC board. Chair McClain spoke of how Mary K's commitment to children, youth and community is an extension of her upbringing and her parents' commitment to this community and service. The board members shared memories of Mary K's impact on them, and on the community. Mary K spoke of how her

commitment comes from standing on the shoulders of those who came before us and looking at the future through the eyes of the children and youth. Mary K brought us a sweet potato pie, which she baked to bring to conversations about racial healing earlier in the week. The process of baking the pies brought people together, for the benefit of others. Learning how to listen deeper is a critical skill, if we are to all be in community. She offered the pie to the board as a symbol of comfort. She shared some wisdom from her recent summit at the Kellogg Foundation. We are going to have a national day of healing on January 17. It's incumbent upon us to find ways to come together to bridge across the big chasms we face. She encouraged us to continue to find ways to help youth learn, grow and thrive, and don't ever let anything diminish that.

SPPS Superintendent Search – community meetings are scheduled, and we could have a facilitator come to the January meeting. There are four questions, and we will devote the entire January meeting to a facilitated discussion about the qualities we want to see in the new superintendent. Boyd requested that one of the qualities is to continue the equity work, with healing. Heather, Jackie and Mary will not participate.

Rep. Pinto is having a convening to focus on 0-3 on January 6 from 9-11:30 at St. Thomas.

Today is Project Kofi day in the city of Saint Paul.

Saint Paul Foundation is co-sponsoring a community forum in late January on School Resource Officers. Bruce will send us the invitation.

Meeting adjourned 10:17.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- MDE – data disaggregation (Peter to give update)
- New Lens Urban Mentoring overview
- Results Based Accountability – NdCAD, Toni Carter to talk about that framework and how it may fit the SPCC's work.
- SPPS data on ACT scores
- Turner to present on proposal for new middle school on the Eastside
- Ramsey County Attorney – Triad, juvenile justice, school violence
- How is SPPS using new legislative funding targeted at recruiting more diverse teaching workforce?
- 2017 Legislative Session

Next meeting: January 10, 2017 from 8:15 – 10am at CAP/RW