



**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative  
APPROVED Minutes  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, February 12, 2014  
8:15- 10am @ CAP/RW**

**Board Members Present:** Charles Gill, , Chris Tolbert, Mary Jo McGuire, Jackie Turner, Jean O'Connell, Carol Dawson, Toni Carter, Tyrize Cox

**Others Present:** Christa Anders and Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Co-Coordination); Mike Hagen (SPCC Fiscal Agent)

**Meeting called to order by Turner at 8:25 am.**

**I. Call to Order and Children's Fire**

Gill lit the Children's Fire with words from Eric Mahmoud's *Best in Class*, about the social costs of the achievement gap – the stakes have never been higher with regard to educating ALL our children. This is what pulls all of us to sit around this table – what difference can we make to change that gap?

**II. Consent Agenda**

**Motion to approve the Minutes from the December 11, 2013 Board meeting and accept the information contained in the January update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved.**

**III. Grad Nation Work Group Update**

Advance Consulting gave an update on the Grad Nation work group, and the two proposals that may be forthcoming to the SPCC board for funding. One is a Promise Fellow to address chronic absence, the other may be up to a 1.0 FTE to work on either 15 day drop or chronic absence. The Work Group would like to have a proposal to the Board by the April meeting. The Board encouraged the work group to consider focusing the Promise Fellow on working with chronically absent American Indian students. Also suggested focusing at Humboldt and Washington as

target schools. Also consider what wrap around supports would be necessary to get the chronically absent kids re-plugged in.

#### **IV. Learn, Grow, Thrive Grants**

Advance Consulting prepared and distributed a summary of 2012-13 grantee projects and outcomes.

**Freedom School:** Turner presented the request for funding from Freedom School for summer 2014. The Board had the proposal prior to the meeting for review. The enrollment target is 350 scholars (request = \$225,000), but there may be more (K-8). Middle school students will be targeted. Program will be housed at Rondo, and will run after SPPS summer school ends and go right to the start of school.

**Right Track Summer Youth Employment:** Tolbert presented the request for funding from Right Track Summer Youth Employment. The Board had the proposal prior to the meeting for review. The enrollment target is 75 student (request = \$100,000). City applied for two grants (as has been historically the case) and only received one for this summer, which is why this request is coming to the SPCC. Tolbert indicated that the “de-funding” from the state was a two year reduction, so this request is a major challenge for the next two summers. Carter asked if this proposal has been brought through the Workforce Investment Board. Tolbert thought not yet. Whatever course the SPCC takes today on this proposal, Carter asked that this be used as an opportunity to leverage the work of the WIB. Gill requested if there might be more opportunities for jobs and McGuire asked if they could expand to other employers, such as the County. Gill offered to help recruit the youth. O’Connell suggested that this be considered as one year stop-gap funding

**Motion to fund Freedom School for \$225,000 for summer 2014, in accordance with the proposal presented. Motion to amend the Freedom School funding to \$200,000 for summer 2014. Amended motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion to fund Right Track for \$100,000 for summer 2014, in accordance with the proposal presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

Other avenues need to be investigated to provide funding for Right Track, and look at the potential to see if the Workforce Investment Board would also contribute, starting that discussion immediately. CM Tolbert will insure that happens. Funding for one year only.

#### **V. Saint Paul Public Schools Strategic Plan**

Turner and O’Connell gave an update on current situation at Saint Paul Public Schools. One topic of discussion was the potential strike of the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, with the vote scheduled for February 24. Turner also gave

an overview of the Strong Schools, Strong Communities 2.0, which will go before the School Board on 3/24. This is a five year plan, to guide the work of the District to really make an impact on student outcomes.

**Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- R.T. Rybak come to talk about Generation Next
- New grantees presenting on their work; organized by Learn, Grow, Thrive goals, rather than individual grantees
- Youth philanthropy – March 2014
- Proposal for Grad Nation
- Ryan O'Connor presenting on Ramsey County Equity Framework
- Ramsey County Human Services regarding wraparound services
- Joint meeting with Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative Board

**Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.**