



**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative  
APPROVED Minutes  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, July 13, 2016  
8:15- 10:00 @ CAP/RW**

**Board Members Present:** Robert McClain, Toni Carter, Jackie Turner, Jean O'Connell (outgoing board member), Bruce Thao, Mary K Boyd, Mary Jo McGuire, Anna Ross, Tyrize Cox, Peter Grafstrom, Clarence Hightower

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

**Visitors:** Mary Vanderwert (Saint Paul Board of Education)

**Meeting called to order by McClain at 8:30 am.**

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

McClain lit the Children's Fire with words about the difficult issues facing our community and our country this week, and the potential and excitement about being part of a body like the SPCC, to continue to work on issues related to our children's education. We need to find ways to create an environment in which our kids can stabilize their lives.

**II. Consent Agenda**

**Motion to approve the Minutes from the June 8, 2016 Board Meeting and accept the information contained in the June update from Advance Consulting and the June financial report. Motion approved.**

**III. SPCC Board Nominations**

Deb Moses' resignation from CAP/RW leaves that spot on the SPCC Board open, and until someone new starts in that job, Clarence Hightower, Executive Director of CAP/RW will fill the CAP/RW spot on the Board.

The resignation of Jean O'Connell from her school board seat leaves that spot open, as well. At the suggestion of Director O'Connell and Jackie Turner, staff sent an inquiry to Mary Vanderwert to see if she would like to ask to be appointed to the SPCC school board seat.

McClain asked Vanderwert to seek official SPCC board nomination from the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Directors. Staff will send a letter to SPPS Board Chair to ask the board to decide.

The recent changes to the board left the Chair and Secretary officer positions open. These are one year terms.

**Motion to appoint Turner as Secretary through the current term. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion to appoint McClain as Chair through current term. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion to appoint Grafstrom as Vice Chair through current term. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion to appoint a nominating committee of O'Connell and Boyd to identify candidates for 2017 officers and open seats. Motion approved unanimously.**

The nominating committee will present a slate of 2017 officers and candidates for any open community seats by the November board meeting.

#### **IV. SPPS 2016/17 Budget and Department Structure**

Turner provided an update on next year's Saint Paul Public Schools budget, including related changes to department structures/staffing. There were \$15.1M in budget cuts across the district for next year, and Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships took the largest percentage cut. Turner and Cox talked about the impact of the new budget on the Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships. They do direct parent support (training and learning like Parent Academy and Parent Advisory Councils, parent workshops), support of community (hosting college fairs, Urban League events, Every Body's In), community-based agency support (including support of SPCC grantees such as Breakthrough Twin Cities and Freedom School, encouraging families to complete FRPL forms through phone bank). It's the Department that has the nimbleness and flexibility to support the students and families in the district in multiple ways. Boyd said that in all her years with this district, the Office of Family Engagement and Community Partners has done more to close gaps with the community than any other office.

SPCC should advocate for a meeting with the Executive Committee and new Superintendent, to include the whole SPCC board or a delegation/Executive Committee.

#### **V. Graduation Garment Policy – Saint Paul Public Schools**

Thao brought forward a discussion on the SPPS graduation garment policy. The issue came to our attention through a SPPS student who graduated the past spring – students were asked to remove cultural garments prior to the graduation ceremony. Cox presented the SPPS policy on this issue. She also apologized about the handling of the situation at this graduation. Eagle feathers are allowed in districts across the country. Superintendent may

waive the policy. Boyd asked that the district revisit the policy, to allow for some recognition of culture. What is religious or cultural to one student may be offensive to others. If students are able to explain the significance of their garment, they should be allowed to make the case. Need to include young people in this discussion. Hightower pointed out that our single role is to invite the SPPS Board to re-examine this policy. One possibility is to have the student government of each school to set the policy for that school's graduation. Thao asked how to proceed in response to the students. They should make the request to Kaohly Her to have the SPPS Board to revisit the policy. Thao to report back to the SPCC, and Vanderwert will help make sure this issue is addressed. If there is no response from the SPPS Board, then it may make sense for SPCC to take targeted action. Vanderwert suggested that SPCC come to public comment period to explain the SPCC. O'Connell suggested that Vanderwert use the time at the end of the public board meetings to update the SPPS Board on the SPCC activities.

#### **VI. Appreciation for O'Connell**

Boyd expressed her appreciation for O'Connell's service to St. Paul students, and her courage and leadership. O'Connell also expressed her thanks to the SPCC Board. She reminded us that the most important thing is how we treat one another.

#### **VII. Board Updates and Connections and Items for Future Meetings**

##### **Meeting adjourned 10:05.**

##### Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- MDE – data disaggregation (Peter to give update)
- New Lens Urban Mentoring overview
- Early Learning Focus: Screening, SPPS KEP Plans, Gen Next K Readiness Plan (invite Rep. Pinto)
- Results Based Accountability – NdcAD, Deb Moses, 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
- Saint Paul Police Department – community relationships, community policing.
- Ramsey County Attorney – Triad, juvenile justice, school violence

**Next meeting: September 14, 2016 from 8:00 – 10am at CAP/RW**

**NOTE: August 10 meeting cancelled for summer break**