



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

Board Members Present: Mary Jo McGuire, Jackie Turner, Jean O'Connell, Carol Dawson, Toni Carter, Tyrize Cox, Denise Stahura, Robert McClain, Mary K Boyd

Guests Present: Elizabeth Rau (Youthprise) and Megan Mueller (Saint Paul Youth Commission); Toddy Benson (City of Saint Paul); Amy Stopelstad Ryan Kirk, Jenifer Otremba (Breakthrough Twin Cities)

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

Meeting called to order by Boyd at 8:20 am.

I. Call to Order and Children's Fire

McGuire lit the Children's Fire with words from Everyday Serenity, speaking of balance. We cannot avoid challenges, nor should we try to do so, because they are the source of light and promise and hope.

II. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the February 12, 2014 Board meeting and accept the information contained in the February update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved.

III. Youth Philanthropy Update

In 2013, SPCC gave a \$15,000 grant to Youthprise to support a youth development initiative organized around youth philanthropy. Elizabeth (Libby) Rau and Megan Mueller work with the Saint Paul Youth Commission, and gave an update on the

progress of that grant. Access to public transit, sex trafficking and bullying are their three priority areas, identified by youth:

- **Transit** expands out of school learning (and in-school) opportunities, leadership opportunities (volunteerism, civic engagement), and wellness (social connections), and employment. The idea would be a bus card program and related research on the impact on school outcomes.
- **Sex trafficking** subcommittee started this year. They are current getting educated on the issue by meeting with those in the community already working on this issue. Their focus is on increasing awareness of the issue with other youth, and trying to figure out what their project should be. They are partnering with Learn, Grow, Thrive grantee Breaking Free. They are piloting the new curriculum to see how youth respond – areas for improvement, and then seeking to pilot the curriculum in the schools. They are also working on creating a performance piece on this issue.
- **Bullying** focus is on empowering victims and peer-to-peer resolution. They are interested in creating a pilot peer mentor program to reducing bullying, and also a restorative justice program. The final piece is a bystander training to help reduce bullying (that pilot in a charter school).

In March, each subcommittee is working on identifying strategies. In April, they will identify partner organizations, and final recommendations to be considered/approved at June meeting of the Youth Council, with grants starting in July. The Board reminded them to also consider innovative new approaches, not just the known, existing organizations.

IV. Learn Grow Thrive Goal: High School Graduation – Breakthrough Twin Cities

Amy Stopelstad, Executive Director of Breakthrough Twin Cities, along with Ryan Kirk and Jennifer Otremba, gave a presentation on their Learn, Grow, Thrive grant-funded work to increase graduation rates in Saint Paul. They are opening a new site at Saint Paul City School, within the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood. They are also expanding into the Northside Achievement Zone. These two expansions into Promise Neighborhoods are garnering national attention. They are also active in Generation Next, in the College and Career Readiness Network.

They highlighted the challenges created by no longer having access to academic outcomes through the portal. For example, their Promise Outcomes from their Learn, Grow, Thrive grant no longer include grades or MCA scores, which they lost in 2012. Turner proposed a solution to this issue, and Otremba will follow up.

V. Grad Nation Work Group

The board packet contained a request for a grant of \$6,900 to support the Promise Fellow application prepared by SPCC for the Saint Paul Public Schools under the auspices of the Grad Nation Work Group. The funds are the required “match,” which

will be necessary if Minnesota Alliance with Youth selects our application for funding.

Motion to grant \$6,900 as required match for the Grad Nation Promise Fellow, should that position be selected as part of the Minnesota Alliance with Youth Promise Fellow program. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. Saint Paul Public Schools Update

O'Connell gave an update on the outcome of the SPPS contract. The challenging issues were around wage and benefits, class size and testing/assessment issues. The assessment issue in the community is "What are we learning from all these tests?" There are many challenges, but it also does allow us to see if we are moving the needle for kids. The District is committed to reducing testing and being more strategic in testing, to make sure the data is useful in instruction. SPPS is changing the amount of testing that is happening. In the 2012 school year, they looked at testing and test prep time and committed to reducing testing-related time by 25%, working in consultation with the teachers. Teachers received a 2.5% COLA in year one and 2% in year two (which is 8% total increase when accounting for steps and lanes). The increases fit in the current budget. The issues around staffing/class size – there is an MOU in the contract around class size ranges. There was not an absolute cap in every classroom, but some flexibility based on the specific issues and needs in a given school. The district needs to accelerate an overall look at their facilities to accommodate class size changes.

Turner gave a presentation on the Strong Schools Strong Communities 2.0 plan for SPPS. If Board members would like a copy of the presentation, please contact Advance Consulting.

There was also discussion and celebration of the high school graduation rates and the great success that the District is having. There was discussion of being intention about sharing that news, in addition that there is progress to be made and what we're doing about those remaining gaps.

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
- 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
- Police/youth relations (Robert McClain is working on this)

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