

The Cottonwood School of Civics and Science

Meeting of the Board of Directors

February 9, 2022

Zoom meeting began at 6:30PM. Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

In attendance

Nels Hesseldahl – President

Emily Sturgess Cleek – Secretary

Nicki Phelps - Treasurer

Sade Rivers

Amy Sample Ward

Amanda McAdoo – Executive Director

Staff: Laura Kropf - Business Administrator

Community: Alex Scott, Ken, Heather

Meeting Minutes

1. Community Comment
 - a. Heather: Addressing the OHA announcement about lifting the mask mandate. Asking that the Board push back to the additional requirements and will not continue masking students and teachers, eliminate test to stay, and not requiring asymptomatic students to quarantine.
2. January Minutes
 - a. Nels presents minutes from December Board meeting
 - b. Nicki moves to approve minutes; Amy seconds.
 - c. Minutes approved with unanimous vote by all board members.
3. Friends of Cottonwood update
 - a. Nicki presented an update that auction is being worked on now. Still needing more people/volunteers to support.
 - b. Ken volunteered to help.
 - c. Shout-out for restaurant fundraiser
4. Nicki presents the budget and calls attention to the balance sheet that was sent out- recognizing that the balance sheet balances :)
 - a. Four FTE are associated with grant funding so the Wages section of the budget has been updated.
5. Executive Director report

- a. Black History Month is being celebrated in all classrooms through music, poetry, literacy and research.
- b. Black Excellence Award winner has been announced - Aaron Nigel-Smith
- c. All classrooms have teachers!
- d. Kids have started going out on Fieldwork via public transit
- e. 95% of our 6th grade parents have confirmed that their student will go to outdoor school (3 nights)
- f. Waiting to confirm 7/8 grade parents are comfortable with an end of year Outward Bound camping trip to Smith Rock. 14 of 44 families have responded to survey to gauge interest.
- g. Updates from the lawyer related to weighted lottery; will share with the board once the lawyer has followed up with feedback.
- h. Onboarding Laura the new school Secretary.
- i. 60+ families have applied to enroll at Cottonwood for next year via new, easier to track Google document
- j. Tuesday night is first Open House- it'll be virtual
- k. In person meeting on March 16 at 6:30pm
- l. Tentative auction date is April 9, but can consider moving it to May; want to make sure date does not overlap with any of the students' overnight trips.
- m. Weighted lottery
 - i. We are the first school moving forward under the new rules; other schools are waiting a year.
 - ii. Law designates multiple categories of historically underserved populations and language indicating a "combination of these factors".
 - iii. In looking at balancing our school population, and providing quality education to all students, we are still leaning toward lottery applicants checking race or ethnicity for possible weighted applications, and you select just one of those and will get the weighted lottery.
 - iv. Nicki suggested that we add an additional validation step during the actual running of the lottery selections to be sure we can validate that the weighting was applied correctly before names are drawn.

- v. Waiting to hear back from lawyer, Deb, then will bring new information to board to make a final decision on the weighted lottery.
- 6. Board action items in support of Equity Action Plan
 - a. Sending out to families the letter from board addressing the recent issues in the school
 - b. Committing to action steps where the board is involved in DEI work at the school in some tangible way, such as attending the DEI hosted socials, attending DEI meetings and seeing what support is needed, board members getting to know the community better.
 - c. Making personal commitments toward To-Dos between each board meeting to make sure needed tasks are done. A few examples:
 - i. Honoring the commitments we've made for the DEI plan
 - ii. Helping with committee work (facility committee really needed right now!)
 - iii. Working on board recruitment efforts
 - iv. Advertising for the school lottery
 - d. Adding standing agenda time to monthly board meetings for report outs, updates, and next steps discussion on the Equity Action Plan.