Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2019 – 8:00am – 1 Westinghouse Plaza, Hyde Park

Present: Robie White, Peter Fishman, Marcus DeFlorimonte, Jon Correia, Jesse Abair, Marc Sorresso, Jordan Biggers, Sarah Smith, Alysia Ordway, Spencer Blasdale (Executive Director), Oliver Truog (Chief Operating Officer), Priti Johari (Chief Academic Officer), Nicole Malo (Development Manager)

Meeting was called to order at 8:34 am after board members had spent 30 minutes in classrooms

I. Minutes/ Schedule/ Events

A. VOTE: Today’s meeting Agenda – Mr. Correia proposes to accept agenda as presented and Mr. Biggers seconds. All approved.

B. VOTE: Approve remote access – Ms. Smith motions to approve remote access for Mr. Carroll. Ms. Ordway seconds. All approve.

C. VOTE: Mr. Fishman proposes that the board accept the meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Smith notes that not all board members were currently serving during the first July meeting and so the first vote was motioned and approved by only members in attendance and serving as board members at that point.

   a. Motion was made to accept July 10 minutes by Mr. Correia and seconded by Mr. White. Mr. DeFlorimonte and Mr. Fishman approved.

   b. Motion was made to accept July 31 meeting minutes by Ms. Smith. Seconded by Mr. White. All approved.

D. Public Comment – None.

II. Debrief Classroom visits

A. The following comments came after the 30 minute classroom visits. The purpose of these visits was to get a ‘narrow slice’ of instruction at the school.

   a. Mr. DeFlorimonte noted that student tour guides each had an idea of where they wanted to go for college, even if they were students in earlier grades at APR.

   b. Mr Biggers noted the radar and urgency of the 7th grade science teacher who transitioned seamlessly to having students read and own the objective of the lesson.

   c. Mr. Correia noted how the teacher linked KG PRIDE values to student behavior inside the classroom and that she thanked students.

   d. Ms. Smith noted that the students in the 11/12th grade seminar were starting a new novel and that they first worked on vocabulary, and that this was both a verbal and visual study. She noted that students were in pairs but several students didn’t have a partner.

   e. Mr. Abair noted that there was consistent student engagement with many students eager to participate.

   f. Mr. Sorresso appreciated high school biology and that the teacher was both warm and had set expectations about lab procedures. He wondered if students
were ready with their content knowledge to fully grasp the lab that they were about to complete.
g. Mr. Deflorimonte noted that the English teacher worked hard to include all individual students as they worked on different assignments.
h. Ms. Johari summed up the comments with noting that the board made great observations and that these resonate with our work as a community. We have established a sense of ‘warm demand’ and are working to leverage this for deeper thinking.

II. Dashboard and Program

A. School Dashboard. Mr. Blasdale reviewed the overall dashboard and shared that we will dive into specific categories over the course of the year. He highlighted the results from last year and began with the college persistence results and AP coursework results. He then highlighted the added categories for this year’s dashboard - early college participation and success; chronic absence rate.

a. Mr. Biggers asked about our language around gender and we discussed how the use of male and female does not account for other identities. We will review this in the program committee meeting.

b. Mr. Mejia asked about students NOT planning on attending college and we agreed that we should also review our target of 100% college matriculation because we intentionally work with students to find the best pathway. For example, in last year’s class of 38 seniors there were three who were best served with an apprenticeship path towards a trade.

c. Ms. Ordway and Mr. DeFlorimonte asked about Early College success rates. The school clarified that we use “C” as passing (not “D”) and Ms. Johari further explained the range of courses that our students take at Bunker Hill, Ben Franklin and Wentworth.

B. Strategic Plan Dashboard. Mr. Blasdale reviewed the overall 8 areas of the strategic plan and he and Ms. Johari discussed how the academic section still needs revision because it has too many objectives for the upcoming school year. Ms. Johari and the Principals are working to hone a few focused objectives for Program Committee discussion in October.

III. ED Performance Goals

A. Discussion: Mr. Fishman presented the goals for the Executive Director. He referenced the end-of-year evaluation conducted by the governance committee and how the committee and Mr. Blasdale had drafted the goals together over the summer. The set of goals in the board packet is close to complete but needing one more look by the committee and an additional measure for culture.

IV. Development Report

A. Discussion: Ms. Malo shared an overview of the efforts to engage donors to APR. The goal is $243,000 and we look to have 230 donors, which is symbolic of our 23rd school year.
Ms. Ordway asked about our current donor base and Ms. Malo replied that 230 represents approximate four-folks increase from the current status. Ms. Malo then shared our “case statement” which is a one-pager that describes the importance of funding extended learning opportunities for students. She then described the process for how we work to engage stakeholders and gave homework to the board - each member has two individuals to call and thank them for their previous support of APR. Board members are to email Ms. Malo with information following their calls.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Complete meeting packet HERE.