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Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 2015

Time: 9:41a.m.

Place: Aftercare Building 100 N. Western, Chicago, IL

APPROVED: November 13, 2015

IO 1.0 CALL TO ORDER by President Jones

1.1 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Candice Jones, Heather Dalmage, Tresa Dunbar Garrett, Patrick Griffin, Candice Smith, Jennifer Vidis, David Green

Others present: Superintendent Gloria Davis, Chief Legal Counsel Beth Compton, Chief Financial Officer Kiersten Neswick (by phone), Director of Special Education Azalea McEwen, Administrative Assistant Maurice McAllister, John Sonnenberg, Evan Pinto, and Steve Crider all from Pearson Visual Learning, Rachel Brady from Equip for Equality.

1.2 Oath of Office for Board Member.

Mr. David Green was sworn in under oath by Chief Legal Counsel Beth Compton.

AI 2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Agenda

President Jones requested to move the approval of the agenda. Member Dunbar Garrett motioned to approve the agenda and Member Vidis seconded.

Voice Vote:

Aye; Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries

2.2 Approval of Minutes August 21, 2015

President Jones requested to move the approval of minutes for August 21, 2015. Member Dunbar Garrett motioned to approve the August 21, 2015 minutes with no changes and Member Smith seconded.

Voice Vote:

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries.

IO 3.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Grad Point Presentation by Mr. John Sonnenberg, Pearson Visual Learning Specialist.

Mr. Sonnenberg thanked the Department of Juvenile Justice for being able to provide the online training to the youth. He presented the Board with a full presentation of GradPoint online training and its mission.

- The ultimate mission of GradPoint is to educationally prepare and graduate students with courses leading to a high school diploma; college readiness course; exposure to career readiness pathways; and General Education Diploma (GED).
- This is accomplished by a 2 track system: 1. Offer courses approved by the State in order to graduate with an Illinois State Diploma; and 2. Offer courses and preparation leading to a GED.
- The student graduates in both tracks, they must master course content, monitored by a State licensed teacher and successfully pass the assessments required in each pathway. The student's progress is documented every step of the way. A pre assessment process is administered to see where the youth is; where the youth should begin; and where is the youth's understanding.
- This training is accomplished without teachers for every course. Technology has built virtual high schools that offer courses like a physical school; with teachers who oversee each class. Students take each course in classrooms, and move on to other courses and grade levels until graduation.
- This is all possible by creating a blended learning environment which consists of: virtual personalized course; GradPoint professional development; complimentary textbook resources; and pedagogy professional development.
- How we do we know students are learning and are on track to graduate? By the data that is stored virtually. Instead of the traditional classroom setting, the program allows the educator to capture and enhance the data that is stored to better access the youth.
- Performance Evaluation of 3821 courses was from January 1 to June 30, 2015. What is unique about the system is that GradPoint can be used one year after the youth leaves the facility through the Aftercare program.
- Courses are customized for the youth by core content material: Sequential; Prescriptive; and Flex Courses. Since the start of the 2015 fiscal year youth has used 45,962 hours of time; 1003 courses were completed with verifiable record of learning; all facilities are using GradPoint; Average completion grad is 74.4%; and Completed course grades range from 72.0% to 78.1%.

3.2 July and August Special Education Reports Presentation by Ms. Azalea McEwen, Director of Special Education.

Ms. McEwen provided the board members with a hand out that captures the data analysis and instructions for each column of her report. The data analysis report provides full details of each column with an explanation. The highlights of her requests were:

- The student monitoring report provides an ongoing statistical record of the number of students served during the month.
- The statistical data entered on the special education or SPED 16 provides program services being provided at the respective juvenile division sites.
- The report is utilized as a compliance monitoring tool.
- The report is used to document the number of referrals initiated; number of students in the special education process; status of IEP compliance timeliness; number of evaluations/reevaluations conducted; number of students found eligible and identify the number in the various eligibility categories; total number of students enrolled in special education per facility; respective tech caseload totals; students to teacher ratio; and cumulative total number of students served during current fiscal year.
- The majority of students entering the program are entered out of compliance with the IEP process.
- Within 14 days of enrollment, the Department request records from community school; there are three attempts to document requests for records within 10 days; if no records received we were instructed to move forward with evaluation period; and generate referral for evaluation/reevaluation.
- Some of the recommendations that the Department is implementing to rectify this back log is to: Hire more Special Education Teachers; hire an Education Specialist; and hire more School Psychologists. However, the goal is to fill the positions with quality educators not just quantity.

The board members took a 10 minute break at 11:02 a.m. and returned to the conference room at 11:11 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:11 am.

4.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4.1 Budget Report – IDJJ Chief Financial Officer, Kiersten Neswick

President Jones introduced the Chief Financial Officer, Kiersten Neswick. Ms. Neswick mentioned that the State does not have a Budget at this time. In absence of a FY16 budget appropriation, the FY16 budget is provided for under an agreed order to maintain compliance with Consent Decree.

- The budget is established at FY15 levels through the aforementioned agreed order.
- The FY15 School District budget consists of 10 appropriation lines totaling \$6,904,000.
- The agreed order is insufficient for the Department to fully fund its staffing and operational needs.
- The Department has requested its FY16 budget through the Governor's Introduced Budget to meet the required mandates detailed in RJ vs Jones Consent Decree.

- To date, the Department's FY16 appropriation bill has not been enacted by the General Assembly nor signed by the Governor.
- General Revenue Funds (GRF) is a roll up of all facilities. FY2015 – FY2016
- The School Board will have to approve the final budget for the School District once the Budget for FY2016 is approved by the Governor.

4.2 Board Policies

President Jones mentioned that State statute includes numerous requirements for school districts to include written policies and procedures in various areas. While IDJJ has a comprehensive set of policies "Administrative Directives" that covers many facets of youth care and services that apply both within the school and in all other facets of Department operations, the School Board needs to establish a set of policies that addresses education in order to be in compliance with State and Federal statutes.

- We need to establish a group of individuals to come together to start policy writing.
- Some ideas to make this a reality is possibly asking Pro Bono or Students during their internship.

The administration requests the Board of Education establish a small workgroup of Board members, working with the Superintendent to analysis options and recommend a formal course of action to the Board.

- Superintendent Davis asked are there any volunteers among the board that would like to sit on the work group. Member Vidis and Member Dalmage agreed to volunteer for the work group.

President Jones requested to move to establish the work group to start the review of draft policies and recommendations to the Board of Education. Member Smith motioned to move with the workgroup to establish draft policies and recommendation to the Board. Member Green seconded.

Voice Vote:

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries.

The Department will set up a date and time for the teleconference.

5.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

5.1 School District #428 Calendar

Superintendent Davis mentioned that IDJJ is required by law to develop a calendar to utilize in order to conduct school for the youth during years 2015-2016.

- The school calendar includes the Regular School Year of 176 attendance days; 4 Teacher Institute Days utilized for professional development; 2 half-day Parent/Teacher Conference Days; Not in Absence (NIA), and holidays.

The School Calendar must be approved by the Board. President Jones recommend that IDJJ School Calendar 2015-2016 be approved by the board. Member Vidis moved to approve the IDJJ School Calendar 2015-2016 and Member Smith seconded.

Voice Vote:

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries.

5.2 July and August Monthly Data Reports

Superintendent Davis mentioned that the Administration captures critical data from each school site on a monthly basis. The data is forwarded to the office of the School Superintendent and Ms. Brittany Groot, Data Manager.

- The data is analyzed and compiled in a report that is shared with the Executive Team.
- The purpose of the report is to continually monitor the progress of the youth in IDJJ schools as it relates to educational attainment and completion.
- The school data report and instruction sheet is attached to explain each column of the report
- In addition, Ms. Groot prepares a consolidated monthly report with: Students Enrolled in School; Teachers Employed; Overall Students to Teacher Ratio; General Education Student to Teacher Ratio; Special Education Student to Ratio; High School Diplomas Awarded; General Equivalency Diplomas Awarded; 8th Grade Diplomas Awarded; Overall Diplomas Awarded; Percent of Special Education Students; Percent of Special Education Student with Individualized Education Plans; and Number of Percent of Disrupted School Days.
- Each monthly report is separated by school.

6.0 BOARD DISCUSSION

Nothing to discuss.

7.0 IMPORTANT DATES

- ### 7.1
- Community Dialogue – Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 10:00 am IYC-Harrisburg; Friday, October 2, 2015 at 10:00 am IYC-Chicago; and October 9, 2015 at 10:00 am, IYC-Kewanee. Invited community and civic leaders will be in attendance. All Board of Education members are welcome.

- AI 8.0 President Jones requested to adjourn the board meeting. President Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting and Member Smith seconded. Motion carried. The board meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The next Board of Education meeting is November 13, 2015