Purpose Built Schools Atlanta
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 18, 2025 - 11:30am – 1:30pm
1670 Benjamin Weldon Bickers Dr. SE – Atlanta, GA 30315

Board Members Present: Greg Giornelli, Dr. Cynthia Kuhlman, Sean Brazier, Cheryl Lomax

Staff Members Present: Jonathan Tugman, Mike Davis, Nikkita Warfield, Barry Jones, Cara Frattasi, Nichole Stone

Potential Board Members: Shannon Judd, Brittany Collins, Joshua Barber

Public: Paulette Montague, Lynette Atcherson

A. Meeting Opening (Meeting began at 11:34am)

Board Chair Greg opened the meeting and welcomed attendees to the final meeting of the fiscal year. He noted the significance of the agenda, which included welcoming new board members, approving budgets, and reviewing organizational progress.

The meeting began with a call for Public Comment.

B. Community Input

Two community members addressed the Board:

- **Parent Concern (Paulette Montague):** A parent of two students at Carver shared concerns about communication between school staff and families. She described delays in counselor responses, scheduling issues around dual enrollment, and lack of engagement opportunities for students. She emphasized that families deserve proactive communication and that students should feel pride and joy in attending school.

- **Grandparent Concern (Lynette Atcherson):** A grandparent of a Carver student echoed concerns about communication, particularly around summer school logistics. He described repeated attempts to obtain clear details on schedules and requirements. He underscored the need for timely, accurate information for working families.

Board members acknowledged both speakers, highlighting three key themes: the importance of clear communication, engagement that makes school enjoyable and meaningful, and maintaining high expectations for students and the system. Leadership was tasked with following up.

C. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 26, 2025 Board Meeting were reviewed. A correction regarding a financial typo was noted. With that amendment, a motion was made by Greg Giornelli to approve the minutes and was seconded by Dr. Cynthia Kuhlman. The minutes were unanimously approved.

D. CEO Report

Mike Davis - CEO:

- **Year Three Focus:** Having spent the first year learning and the second-year planning, this third year is about execution of the strategic plan and five-year goals.
- **Leadership Update:** He introduced Dr. Jason Patterson, the new Senior Director, who shared his background in curriculum and instruction leadership within APS.
- **Academic Highlights:** Early data from student assessments showed promising results, attributed in part to a cluster-wide writing initiative and the “R3” process (review, reflect, refine).
- **Facilities:** Major HVAC renovations at the Price building were completed without disrupting classes. Renovations at Slater classrooms are underway, with newly designed early learning spaces set to welcome families.
- **Talent & Performance:** A compensation study and new performance management system has been implemented. Leadership emphasized supporting teacher retention and clarity around expectations.

- **Community Engagement:** The Pathways with Purpose Career Development Program doubled in size, offering expanded career development opportunities for students.
- **Marketing & Recruitment:** Cara and her team, supported by Pathways with Purpose Interns, canvassed neighborhoods and placed signage identifying PBSA students' homes. Enhanced social media campaigns were launched to further strengthen enrollment efforts.

E. Finance Report & Budget Approval

Barry Jones – Controller:

- The current year is tracking close to budget, with some positive offsets from investment income and cost-savings in operations.
- The FY26 budget reflects a planned but manageable deficit, primarily due to personnel reductions and adjustments. The board acknowledged the challenge but recognized alignment with the long-term financial strategy.
- Staff sentiment following the elimination of approximately 30 positions was discussed. Leadership reported strong retention of core teaching staff, with communications to reassure employees.
- The budget also preserved key academic and enrichment investments in alignment with the strategic plan.

Action: A motion was made by Greg Giornelli to approve the FY26 general operating budget minutes and was seconded by Dr. Cynthia Kuhlman. The FY26 general operating budget was unanimously approved.

The Student & Family Support (SFS) Budget for FY26 was also reviewed, described as largely consistent with prior years but facing shifts as philanthropic funds phase out.

Action: A motion was made by Greg Giornelli to approve the Student & Family Support (SFS) Budget for FY26 and was seconded by Sean Brazier. The Student & Family Support (SFS) Budget for FY26 was unanimously approved.

F. Governance

CEO – Mike Davis:

- **Committee Structure:** Three new board committees were presented: **Governance, Development, and Finance** — to strengthen oversight and sustainability.
- **Board Officers:** A motion was presented for the following officer positions:
  - Chair – Greg Giornelli
  - Secretary – Sean Brazier
  - Treasurer – Dr. Cynthia Kuhlman
- **New Members: Shannon Judd, Brittany Collins, and Joshua Barber** were introduced as potential new board members.
- **Board Schedule:** Meeting dates for the upcoming year were shared. Staff will confirm timing to accommodate members' schedules.

Action: A motion was made by Greg Giornelli to approve three new committees. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kuhlman. The new committees were unanimously approved.

Action: A motion was made by Greg Giornelli to approve the chair, secretary, and treasurer offices as well as officers. The motion was seconded by Sean Brazier. The new Offices and officers were unanimously approved. (Note: as part of this motion Mr. Giornelli asked the board to formalize this in a resolution. He stated the resolution can simply indicate that the board approved the offices in the board meeting on June 18, 2025.)

Action: A motion was made by Greg Giornelli to welcome Shannon Judd, Brittany Collins, and Joshua Barber as new board members. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cynthia Kuhlman. The new board members were unanimously approved.

G. Academic Update

Dr. Nikkita Warfield – Chief of Schools

Dr. Warfield shared updates aligned to the Strategic Plan (Priority Two: Rigorous and Relevant Learning):

- **Instructional Vision:** Development of a unified instructional vision to define excellence across PBSA schools.
- **Early Learning:** Renovations and partnerships (including with Georgia State University) to strengthen Pre-K programming.

- **Professional Learning:** A summer leadership retreat focused on aligning the instructional framework and building strong professional learning communities.
- **Innovation:** Implementation of an AI-supported planning tool to reduce teacher planning time and increase instructional practice.
- **Graduation:** 115 graduates in the Class of 2025, with record scholarship awards.
- **Upcoming Events:** Leadership Summit (July 16–17), New Teacher Orientation (July 18), Values Day (July 22), and First Day of School (August 4).

A discussion followed regarding the Friday half-day schedule. Some board members questioned its continued value, while staff noted survey data showing teachers' appreciation for the planning time. Leadership agreed to revisit and bring back analysis.

H. Community Engagement

Cara Frattasi – Chief of Staff

In the absence of the Director of Community Engagement, Jeronica Harts, Mrs. Frattasi presented updates:

- **Enrollment Strategy:** Multi-pronged caregiver approach, including "Intent to Return" campaigns, cross-functional outreach, and dedicated enrollment teams.
- **Advocacy:** Identification of "super families". These are families with multiple children across campuses to serve as caregiver ambassadors.
- **Data Tools:** New real-time enrollment tracker and canvassing software used by student interns.
- **Progress:** Enrollment is ahead of prior years, though final recruitment efforts are ongoing.

I. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09pm.

Minutes taken by: Angikita Sims – Administrative Assistant