



John Rex Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

September 20, 2018

This newsletter is created for the benefit of our families, staff, and the community in order to offer timely information related to recent JRCES board actions, discussions, or reports given at the most recent meeting.

These notes are highlights from the meeting listed above and should not be considered approved official minutes of the meeting.

Additional information about the Board of Directors, links to board policies & bylaws, as well as minutes from previous meetings may be found on our website located at www.johnrexschool.org

Board Directors Present

- Ellen Buettner
- Joe Clytus
- Justin Ellis
- Kelly Feille, Ph.D.
- David Greenwell
- Nathaniel Harding
- Phil Horning, Chair
- Kirk Humphreys
- Gary Jones
- Jennifer Monies
- Ruth Veales

Next Meeting

November 15

Presentations

- David Klaassen from Enable Midstream shared information about “First and STEM,” a fundraiser in partnership with OSU and OU football to raise funds to create and furnish a Maker Space at John Rex.
- Chris Kavanaugh, rep for John Rex PTA shared about a new fundraiser called RexFest 2019
- Heather Zacarias, Director of Elementary Education shared results from the April 2018 state mandated testing for grades 3-5. Slides from her presentation will be posted on our website.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes from the July 2018 board meeting were approved.
- August, 2018 Financial Report was approved.
- Purchase orders #103-122 for FY19 were approved.
- Additional emergency transfers for SY18-19 were approved.

Discussion & Actions

- Approved the addition of a middle school (6th grade) activity fund account for needs associated with the sixth grade after-school care program.
- Approved Healthy and Fit School Advisory & Safe School Committee, Gifted-Talented Advisory Title 1 Committee and Reading Sufficiency Committee.
- Approved Appropriations and the Estimate of Needs & Publication Sheet for FY19.
- Approved John Rex PTA sanctioning application for FY19.

Background: This is an annual board requirement and permits funds collected by the JRPTA to be exempt from statutory controls over school activity funds, permits them to use the school's name to identify themselves, and to conduct fundraising activities on school property.

- Approved amended and extended charter school contract between The Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Public Schools, and John W. Rex Charter Elementary School, Inc.

Background: Preliminary approval for the charter application was granted from OKCPS (January 2017) and OU (March 2017) which in part added grade 7 & 8; however, the contract must now be finalized with mutual approval of a final contract agreement. This draft contract has been submitted to Dr. McDaniel, OKCPS Superintendent, for review and possible approval at a future OKCPS Board of Education meeting. At this writing, we are awaiting further feedback from the District about any requested changes. The draft contract incorporates the provisions from the original contract and is proposed to be executed by the same three (3) parties, OKCPS, JRCES, & The University of Oklahoma. We proposed an extension term of five (5) years, change the grade span to include 7th and 8th grades, and add a section outlining future amendment discussions, plus a few other minor changes (e.g. point of contact changes). Mutual approval of this contract is essential in order for us to expand and offer 7th & 8th grades in subsequent years.

- Approved amended and extended governance and operational agreement between Oklahoma City Public Schools and John W. Rex Charter Elementary School.

Background: This was a draft of a companion agreement to the contract mentioned above. The governance and operational agreement between JRCES and OKCPS must be also be amended and extended very soon. This draft agreement has also been submitted to Dr. McDaniel, OKCPS Superintendent, for review and possible approval at a future OKCPS Board of Education meeting. The Agreement incorporates the original provisions of the agreement, added language clarifying the facility lease with Myriad Gardens, and is for a proposed term of five (5) years with extension options thereafter. At this writing, we are awaiting further feedback from the District about any requested changes. Approval of this agreement is essential for us to offer 7th & 8th grades in subsequent years.

Head of School Report

Dr. Pierce shared an update including the school's most recent fundraiser, Rocket Fun Run, which raised and estimated \$67,000 that will be used for: additional playground equipment/maintenance, technology (charging carts), a sound system, professional development for teachers, three AEDs, Maker Space materials, supplement funds needed for Spanish, art and school nurse personnel costs, and additional classroom/teacher needs.

Due to space limitations, future JRCS board meetings may need to be held at an off-site location. Possible locations include: the Downtown Library, OPSRC, Enable Midstream or Devon conference rooms, or other nearby facilities, if available. Options will be explored and then rooms reserved. The November 15th meeting will be held here at the school.

Fundraising update: During the last month, the school received private donations from:

- The Anschutz Foundation via Oklahoman Media Company- granted our annual request and a \$20k donation was received
- Enable Midstream Partners- received a donation of \$25k for the establishment of a Maker Space through their "First Down and STEM" program
- Inasmuch Foundation- received annual \$250k pledged grant donation

Mrs. Zacarias and Mr. Duffy gave brief updates on events and activities at the elementary and 6th grade campuses.

Recently hired personnel were announced: Denise Najera (part-time lunch monitor) and Joy Pierce, R.N. (part-time school nurse and reading interventions). Ms. Najera just submitted her resignation and her position will be refilled as soon as possible.

Dr. Pierce asked OKCPS appointees to the JRCS Board to reach out to their fellow OKCPS Board of Education members and extend an invitation to them to visit John Rex for a site tour and lunch with staff and a few students.

Sympathy was extended to Nathaniel Harding and family on the loss of his mother. News was shared about a recent positive health report regarding former board member, Mickey Clagg.

Board Member Comments

- **Gary Jones** expressed his pleasure while visiting the new 6th grade classes held at the Myriad Gardens. He stated that the students were very engaged and high-quality instructional strategies were being used. He feels that there is potential to replicate this model successfully.
- **Ruth Veales** commented that she would like to see additional information and communication about the Rex model along with a new board member orientation. She wishes to offer her best efforts as a board member and wants to help avoid any erroneous perceptions about John Rex Charter School.

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