



John Rex Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

February 21, 2019

This newsletter is created for the benefit of our families, staff, and the community in order to offer timely information related to recent JRCS 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
- David Greenwell
- Phil Horning, Chairman
- Nathaniel Harding
- Gary Jones
- Jennifer Monies
- Gail Vines

Next Regular Meeting

April 18, 2019 at 12:00PM
Myriad Botanical Gardens
301 W. Reno, OKC

Presentations

Heather Zacarias, Director of Elementary Education, shared *preliminary* results about the new Oklahoma A-F school report cards from the SDE's Office of Accountability. The report cards have a new focus that offers a snapshot of academic achievement and school improvement. Four indicators showcase **achievement, growth, English language proficiency progress, and chronic absenteeism**. More detailed information may be found at <https://sde.ok.gov/accountability-assessments>. We will officially announce our school's letter grade when it is officially released by the SDE later this month.

Patrick Duffy, Director of Secondary Education, updated the board about the 2019 enrollment & lottery process and statistics related to applicant data. See graphs on page 2.

Chris Kavanaugh gave an update on the PTA's Rex Fest 2019 including [Architects of Air Luminarium "Albesila"](#) art immersion experience coming to JRCS and downtown OKC in April. Click [here](#) to view his presentation.

Consent Agenda Unanimously Approved

- Minutes from the November 2018 & January 2019 board meetings were approved.
- November '18, December 2018 & January, 2019 Financial Reports were approved.
- Purchase orders #133-144 FY19 were approved.

Action Item & Discussion Highlights

- Chris Gulkerson, auditor, presented and discussed the results of the 2017-18 audit. He stated that it was a "clean" audit with no findings. There were no recommendations and no need for any corrective action. Financials indicated that the school had approximately an 18% carry over last year. A carryover is necessary to begin the next school year and for a growing school like JRCS to cover expenses until mid-term adjustments from the state are received in January the following year.
- The board voted unanimously to accept the results of the 2017-18 audit conducted by Sanders, Bledsoe & Hewett CPAs.
- The board voted unanimously to approve the Contract for Audit for 2018-2019 and the Engagement Letter for Audit for Sanders, Bledsoe & Hewett.
- Discussion was held related to OKCPS's Pathways to Greatness plans and implications for the JRCS agreement extension. Chairman Horning told the Rex board members that he would prefer that the OKCPS continue the public-private partnership "as is" and embrace our unique partnership's success. Dr. Pierce reviewed the following information taken from his letter that was included in the [February school newsletter](#).

The most commonly asked question is, "Will we have 6th and 7th grade next year at the Myriad Gardens?" The answer is YES... but parents must understand that our current agreement with OKCPS permits us to only offer Pre-K through 7th grade through June 2020. OKCPS has stated that our families may enjoy peace of mind that this year's 6th graders will have 7th grade next year and that OKCPS remains committed to expand to 8th grade.

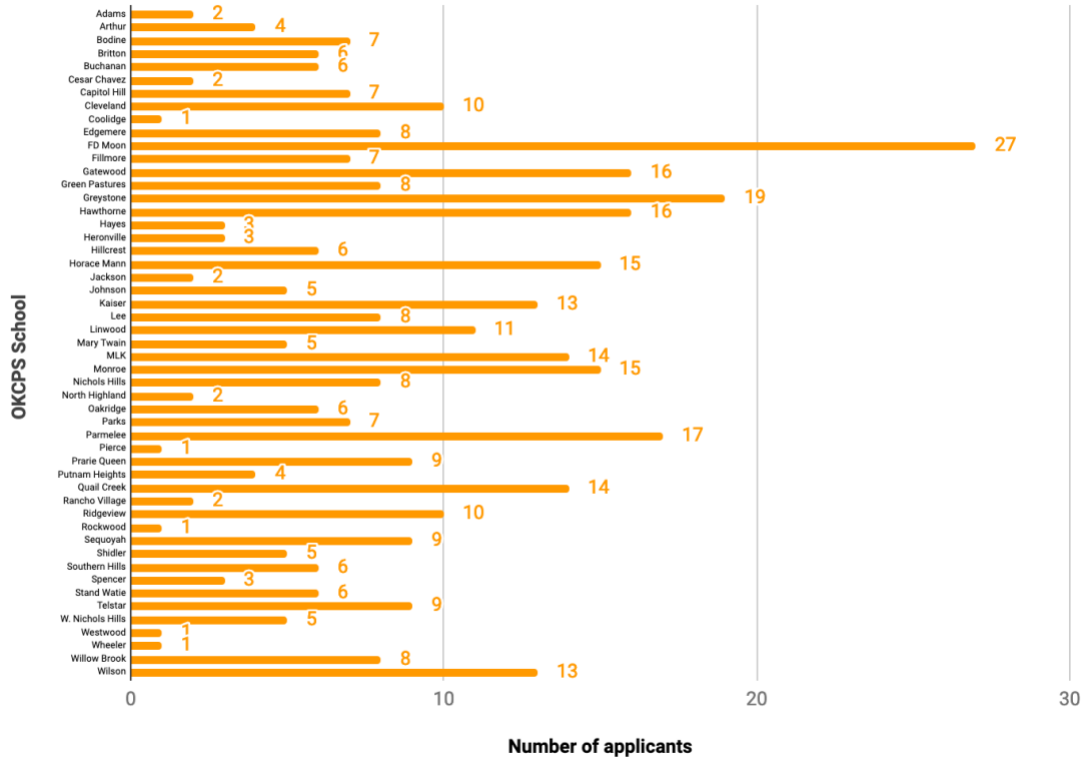
Dr. Pierce continues to urge JRCS parents to support and advocate on behalf of our school to maintain the structure of our public-private partnership, vote to extend our agreement for multiple years (more than one year at a time) and amend the agreement to include PreK-8th grade. This would provide our families with future security as they plan their child's educational pathway for years to come. The JRPTA Advocacy Committee is developing a toolkit for parents so they may support the school's efforts to expand and grow.

Some parents are still worried that we may not offer middle grades next year. Dr. Pierce has reaffirmed with Dr. McDaniel that whichever P2G is selected, it will not disrupt the operations at John Rex. The proposed feeder pattern changes only directly affect OKCPS school sites, not John Rex. During the community meetings, a middle school/high school feeder pattern including John Rex was presented. It was not clearly articulated that there will be no disruption of our current configuration-- that we will offer PreK-7th grades next year-- and that this proposed feeder pattern is for those that do not attend Rex, yet live in our attendance zone, and is an additional option for our families

Further, there was some confusion about the lack of an OKCPS overlay elementary school assigned for our attendance zone. Superintendent McDaniel has confirmed that upon selection of a pathway, JRCS will remain an overlay boundary such that if a student resides in our Tier 1 zone yet chooses to not attend JRCS, he or she will be enrolled at their default OKCPS home school. We will know which school will be the JRCS default school when a path is selected on March 4, 2019.

- Discussion related to vacant board seats was reviewed. There are currently three vacant seats (two from OKCPS and one from OKC Quality Schools) on the John Rex board of directors.

2018-19 JRCS Applicants by School



2019-20 JRCS Applicants by School

