

Urban Prairie Waldorf School

Board Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2019

6:00 p.m.	CLOSED SESSION I:
Attendees: Closed Session	Faculty: Hanna Avellone, Adrianna Kondrat, Nisha Bala: Board: Michael Levine, Mike Grill, Peg Kern, Sharla Paul, Catherine Francis, Nisreen Al-Qamari.
6:43	Open Session: VERSE. ACTION: The Board approved the May meeting minutes, with changes provided by Hannah Avellone and Sharla Paul. ACTION: Peg Kern moved to reset the annual meeting and designate June 27 th officially designated as the Annual Meeting. Full approval.
6:46	DISCUSSION: Ms. Flannery discussed the successes of the early childhood program, the support for the program from the broader community, and her excitement with respect to the program's future growth. Some of the successes described included that the class bonded very well; the collaboration amongst the staff was strong; and the puppet show at the end of the year was excellent. Ms. Paul stated that if Ms. Flannery felt the board could provide more formal support, Ms. Flannery should feel free to present any such request at a future board meeting.
6:52 p.m.	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION WITH BOARD SLATE: Candidates for board president and vice president were introduced: Shannon Callahan is a senior non-profit executive with international experience in strategic and financial planning, fundraising, communications, board development, staff management, and public speaking. She has overseen fundraising programs in the \$10s of millions, most recently for the National Audubon Society. With regard to her philosophy of philanthropy, her Gmail address says it all: togiveisdivine. Shannon has Gabriel in rising grade 3.

	<p>Catherine Francis is a longtime advocate for children, particularly those from marginalized or impoverished backgrounds. She helps direct a program that oversees mental health care for foster children and children on Medicaid, keeping a keen eye on the medication of these at-risk youth. Her work on the board of Raise Your Hand has helped shine a light on the crisis of over-testing in public schools. Catherine has Henry in rising grade 7.</p> <p>The candidates responded to questions concerning their candidacy, including with respect to what they value about UPWS, their vision for supporting UPWS during their terms as president and vice president, and what more they need to learn to most effectively support UPWS.</p> <p>During the question and answer session, a parent community member entered the meeting and voiced complaints about the school and the board, including their opinion that the school and board did not adequately support all students and families, and that many school stakeholders, including board members, were entitled. Following their comments, they left without time for comment or inquiry, and question and answer session with board slate resumed.</p>
7:41	<p>DISCUSSION: Aimee Krall-Lanoue led a discussion regarding the Planning Initiative on Governance, Administration, and Assessment (PIGAA), explaining that PIGAA’s governance recommendation was the culmination of a process that has lasted most of the school year. The PIGAA team included representatives from the board, faculty, and administration. PIGAA’s research and work led to the development of a model involving strong, mission-focused leadership, clear authority, well-defined areas of concern/responsibility (realms) within the school, healthy and effective decision making processes, and accountability. In sum, PIGAA’s proposed model of shared governance envisions a new “head of school” position, an administration group, faculty participation and representation, parent group participation and representation, and board participation and oversight. PIGAA has also defined what these groups are supposed to do and how they can be represented. For example, the leader of the parent organization would be an <i>ex officio</i> member of the board. Each year, the model would be assessed</p> <p>The proposal will be rolled out to community for feedback from those unable to attend the board meeting, along with an FAQ that shows what went into this proposal, and PIGAA reached its conclusion.</p> <p>Community members then had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the recommendation.</p>
7:20 p.m.	End Open Session

Attendees, Open Session	<p>Community: Janine Farzin, Brianna Villarrubia, Dee McCord</p> <p>Faculty: Hannah Avellone, Adrianna Kondrat, Kaitlin Flannery.</p> <p>Administration: None</p> <p>Board: Peg Kern, Shannon Callahan, Aimee Krall-Lanoué, Mike Grill, Nisreen Al-Qamari, Michael Levine, Danila Miranda, Catherine Francis, Sharla Paul.</p>
8:05 p.m.	<p>CLOSED SESSION</p> <p>ACTION: The board voted in favor of a \$1000 assessment per UPWS family.</p> <p>ACTION: The board voted to convene a hiring committee comprised of Shannon Callahan, Danila Miranda, and Michael Levine that will proceed to advertise for interim senior administrator and a dedicated enrollment administrator, and continue to advertise for a pedagogical director.</p> <p>ACTION: The board voted in favor of a human resources decision.</p>
9:40	Closed Session Ended.