Center City Public Charter Schools
Character. Excellence. Service

Board of Directors Meeting
June 10, 2026
Minutes

CCPCS Board Member Attendees (in-person): Josh Boots, Jerenze Campbell, Neville Waters, Martin Griffin, Ammena Nazeen, Kelli Jareaux, Margaret Horn

CCPCS Board Members via Zoom: Meghan Quinn, Dave Dugan

CCPCS Board Members not in attendance: Areesah Mobley (illness), Victoria Gaskins-Tyler (work emergency)

CCPCS Staff Attendees (in-person): Russ Williams, Jeff Cooper, Kelly Dickens, Rhonda McNeil

CCPCS Staff Attendees via Zoom: Laura Berger

I. Call to Order & Chair Welcome

Chairman, Neville Waters greeted everyone and welcomed all to the meeting. Officially called to order at 8:47am.

II. Routine Business

1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve the prior meeting minutes. Motion was seconded. Roll call of all members, minutes were approved (with proxy for an absent member).

2. Approval of SY 26-27 Material Contracts

A question was asked about whether or not the contracts were re-bidded, which Russ answered and explained that re-bidding is done every 3-5 years in particular with larger contracts.

Motion made to approve the Materials Contracts. Motion was seconded. Roll call of all members, Material Contracts were approved (with proxy for an absent member). One member recused due to a previously disclosed prior professional relationship for data related support from his organization.

III. CEO Report

1. Highlights of the last few months with visuals: Councilmember Christina Henderson visited the Makerspace the first week of June. She spent about an hour touring and asking questions. We were able to squeeze in a little budget advocacy during her visit.

2. End Of Year Arts Recital at the ARC in SE DC - students from the campuses performed on stage - both musical and dance acts. Students from Congress Heights also put on an end of year play at Harmony Hall in Fort Washington, MD. The Hackathon at the Makerspace also took place this month which gave the kids a chance to build things and to ask questions of engineers from Amazon Web services and Playlab AI. .

3. The 8th Grade Luncheon was at Maggiano's as usual. Pictures of students receiving year end awards and mingling were shared. Graduations for all campuses were held last week as well. A highlight was at NOMA's graduation The NOMA Ceremony was held at the Makerspace and the guest speaker was leading mayoral candidate Kenyon McDuffie.

4. Early Academic Shifts - there will be an Algebra I cohort at every campus this fall. An additional Algebra teacher has been hired. We are exposing our kids to more intensive math as early as possible. Another shift, our foundational literacy program will now extend to 4th grade, expecting this will close the literacy gaps we see beyond 3rd grade.

5. Enrollment data for SY 2026-2027 was reviewed using June 3rd as the comp date. The date showed our LEA's total enrollment at 1297 as of 6/3 for 2026-2027 compared with 1348 at 6/3/25 for SY 2025-2026. There was discussion of the impact of the Federal administration's policies impacts on enrollment city-wise although management is confident our enrollment will be relatively close to our historical standards by the Fall.

6. Archdiocese of Washington Lease Renewal Update -

Continuation of Existing Lease Terms - Most existing terms and conditions will be maintained across all campuses.

Trinidad (NoMa) Campus - Rent Adjustment - CCPCS Proposed a lower going forward rent for this campus and are in discussions with ADW on an agreed upon reset rent rate.

Annual Rent Escalator - CCPCS proposed an annual rent escalator be reduced from the current 3% to 1.5% annually across all campuses - ensuring predictable, sustainable.

7. Potential Shaw Opportunity - there is a small commercial property adjacent to our Shaw Campus. We currently lease half of the upstairs. The owner reached out to ask if we were interested in leasing the other half of that floor. The owner told us that he would be selling the building soon and wanted to know if we are interested in purchasing the building.

8. Sad news - Bartley O'Hara passed away. Great friend to the Makerspace and to Center City. He will be missed.

IV. 26-27 SY Budget (vote)

Jeff joined the meeting to go over the upcoming budget. He explained the budget summary that was reviewed by the Finance Committee would generate operating income of $2.1m and net income after depreciation and amortization of just $92,000, very close to break-even but slightly positive on net income, but operating income of a couple million dollars. This likely would lead to an increase in cash of $971,000. Since we are planning less building improvements, this budget will generate close to a million dollars in additional cash. This would put us at about $20m at the end of the year which is 170 days of cash on hand. PCSB wants schools to have at least 60, but ideally 90 days of cash on hand. We're in a strong position with 170 days of cash on hand. We're assuming enrollment will go down from 1460 to 1425. We're a bit behind where we were this time last year and have a little concern, especially at the Shaw and NOMA Campuses.

Motion to approve the budget. Motion seconded. Roll call of all members, Budget is approved (with Neville voting as proxy Areesah Mobley who was absent but approved Neville as her proxy before the meeting).

V. Strategic Discussion re: Shaw* (closed)

VI. Break

VII. Adopting ASPIRE (board vote per PCSB)

Laura joined the meeting to give information on ASPIRE. ASPIRE is DC Public Charter School Board's Academic Accountability System, designed to answer a simple but essential question-how well is each public charter school servicing its students?

ASPIRE evaluates schools in the areas DC PCSB believes are most important such as School Progress, School Achievement, School Environment and School-Specific Performance

The ASPIRE Framework cares about all the things that we do. This version of ASPIRE is substantially different from the PMF. If we were to adopt ASPIRE it would be for this school year 25-26 and 26-27. The board discussed the pros of approving this with our 20 year review coming in SY 2027-2028 and the new Smarter Balance assessment being introduced with the 2026-2027 school year. It was determined given the new assessment that we should reserve the right to approve beyond SY 2026-2027 once we have a sense of how the Smarter Balance assessment impacts ASPIRE and how ASPIRE evolves based on lessons learned in SY 26-27.

It was moved (Kelli) that the board adopt the ASPIRE Framework as our accountability system for school year 25-26 and school year 26-27. It was discussed that reserving the right to review our decision pending the initial year of Smarter Balance data ahead of our 20 year review in 27-28 was an important caveat. A proposal to approve the adoption of ASPIRE was seconded by Margaret. After a roll call of all members, the adoption of ASPIRE was approved (with Neville voting as proxy Areesah Mobley who was absent but approved Neville as her proxy before the meeting).

VIII. Committee Reports

1. Academic Committee - Josh is not satisfied with the growth at NoMa and Capitol Hill. There has been some improvement, but not as much as we would like to see Russ from management agreed and outlined some of the steps Center City is taking to continue pushing for strong growth and achievement across all campuses.
2. Finance Committee - Jerenze says we are in a strong financial position and we are anticipating more families enrolling over the summer.
3. Governance Committee - Ammena gave an update in regards to adding another parent trustee and we have a couple of candidates who will be interviewed over the summer or early Fall. She also spoke about Roneal's term ending in the fall and the Board will need to prepare to fill that board role as well.
4. Development Committee - Russ had big news from Honda, they accepted our proposal and awarded us a $100,000 grant. We had a nice event to thank the donors for their contributions and unveiled the Donor Wall at the Makerspace. .

After Committee reports, Neville motioned to go into the Executive Session. Motion seconded.

All voted yes to begin the executive session. The CEO and admin left the room.

IX. Executive Session* (closed)

X. Adjourn