

THE COMPASS CHARTER SCHOOL
COUNCIL MEETING

537 Old North Road, Kingston, RI 02881

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

6:00 PM

POSTED: Thursday, September 8, 2016 :11:42 AM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Consent Agenda (2 minutes)
 - a. Discussion/vote to approve Consent Agenda (including agenda of this meeting)
4. Approval of minutes (2 minutes)
 - a. Discussion/vote to approve minutes from 8.24.16
5. Director's Report (10 minutes)
 - a. Discussion/vote to accept Director's Report
6. Main Street Resources
 - a. Presentation (12 minutes)
 - b. Q & A (15 minutes)
 - c. Discussion/vote to endorse action steps on Strategic Plan
7. Set and vote to appoint committees, committee chairs, and charge (9 minutes)
 - a. Policy
 - i. Discussion/vote
 - b. Development
 - i. Discussion/vote
 - c. Finance
 - i. Discussion/vote
 - d. Learning

- i. Discussion/vote
 - e. Health/Wellness
 - i. Discussion/vote
 - f. Site
 - i. Discussion/vote
- 8. Increase nurse sub pay (3 minutes)
 - a. Discussion/Vote
- 9. PARCC (10 minutes)
 - a. Discussion/Vote
- 10. Calendar amendment (180 days) (2 minutes)
 - a. Discussion/Vote
- 11. Save the Bay - Remove council seat requirement from the charter (5 minutes)
 - a. Discussion/Vote
- 12. Inclusive practices at The Compass School (7 minutes)
- 13. Budget amendment Update (7 minutes)
- 14. Appoint Jason Smith as auditor (2 minutes)
 - a. Discussion/Vote
- 15. New Business
- 16. Public Comment
- 17. Adjourn

The public is welcome to any meeting of the School Council or its subcommittees. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) or any other accommodations are needed to ensure equal participation, please contact the Student Service Coordinator, Julie Wynsen at (401) 788-8322 at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

Any changes in the agenda will be posted on The Compass School's website and place of business, and will be electronically filed with the secretary of state at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

Director's Report

Provided By: Brandee Lapisky, M.Ed.

Submitted on: 9/8/2016

Council meeting date: 9/13/2016

Enrollment

The enrollment tallies below are updated as of 9/8/16.

Step Levels	Grade	Enrollment (Actual by grade)	Enrollment (Actual by step)
Explorers	K	18	36
	1	18	
Adventurers	2	19	19
Discoverers	3	19	38
	4	19	
Investigators	5	19	38
	6	19	
Navigators	7	19	37
	8	18	
Total Enrollment	K-8	168	168

*Note that The Compass School is fully enrolled.

Strategic Plan Updates

Charter Renewal: The charter renewal process, though nearly at its end, is not quite yet complete. These are the final steps that will take place before Compass goes before the Council of Elementary and Secondary Education this fall.

- Draft a bylaws revision re: Save the Bay seat on Council (in progress)
- Providing factual corrections to the charter renewal report (complete)
- Meeting with Matt Plain regarding the new charter form (in progress)
- Complete the charter form and return to the charter renewal office (in progress)
- Name The Council of Elementary and Secondary Education as additional insured on the Compass D&O policy (complete)

Of note, The Compass School and Blackstone Academy were the last to be reviewed using the former framework. A new framework is in development currently and Compass will be reviewed using this revised format in the next charter renewal period, five years from now. In the new system, student achievement outcomes are weighted far more so than classroom practices and curriculum.

Development: In the 2015-2016 school year, the development team's efforts yielded \$54,830, exceeding the \$50,000 target set by Council by \$4,830. The \$20,000 development director salary expense brings the net total to \$34,830.

The breakdown is as follows:

- Annual Fund
 - Staff and families: \$21,000
 - Alumni: \$75
 - Vendors: \$300
 - Business prospects: \$300
- Grants
 - Spark grant: \$855
 - Ocean State Charities Trust: \$2,300
 - Legislative grant (sponsored by Teresa Tanzi): \$5,000
 - Lattner grant: \$25,000

I met with Development Director Abby Colby Cooper regarding the Compass Farm project. Her assessment is that a large project like this one will generate attention and cultivate philanthropic interest. While some of the funders' gifts will be directed toward the operation of the project, having such an attraction on campus and part of the Compass package will provide more incentive and interest in capital projects (like new building construction or renovation).

Blended Learning

- FUSE RI: Following a competitive process including interviews, we were selected by The Highlander Institute as a FUSE district. This means means that The Compass School will have access to two highly trained FUSE fellows for a two-year time frame. The intent is for the FUSE fellows to support Compass with our personalized and blended learning initiatives, which have a place on our strategic plan. The well-defined programming at FUSE will provide a strong framework for personalized professional development for our teachers.
- Heidi Vazquez will serve as our school's Personalized Learning Lead Teacher. In this role, she will serve as a liaison to the FUSE coaches. Additionally, she has taken on responsibilities at the state level as well. For example, Heidi will represent The Compass School as a panelist speaker at the statewide "RIDE Powered by Innovation" conference on September 17th.
- The team from Envision has completed the wireless infrastructure upgrades that now include Explorer and Discoverer modulares. We are waiting to do the final sign off on the project until all

Facilities Life Cycle: Current Campus

- Swings have been installed.
- The new HVAC unit has been installed.
- RIDE commissioned Jacobs to complete a statewide facilities assessment. The *draft* results have just arrived and Brandee will provide the full report upon request. The Compass team is in agreement with much of the report, however we will seek clarity on some areas - noted below.
 - The deficiencies outlined in the assessment are divided into 5 priority levels, #1 being the top priority that needs immediate attention.
 - Positive information from the report:
 - The Compass school did not have any priority 1 deficiencies.
 - No deficiencies were found in the modular buildings or the greenhouse.
 - Some of the deficiencies identified in the main building have already been corrected via the HVAC purchase that Council voted to approve at the conclusion of FY16.
 - The following deficiencies should be discussed at the site committee:
 - Priority 1 – Mission Critical Concerns: None
 - Priority 2 – Indirect Impact to Facility Mission:
 - Main building interior paint (we will seek clarification/contest this assessment)
 - HVAC exterior condenser replacement (completed in August 2016)
 - Priority 3 – Short-Term Conditions:
 - Pave parking lot
 - Add flashing beacon to school zone light
 - Replace vinyl tile in the main building
 - Replace HVAC circulating pump (completed in August 2016)

- Replace canopy and mounted building lighting
- Technology
 - Install security access controls
 - Replace network switching
 - Update classroom AV/Multimedia systems
 - Install local sound reinforcement in instructional spaces
 - Install main telecommunications room ground system
 - Network cabling infrastructure is partially outdated and/or needs expansion (Completed in August 2016)
 - Replace security cameras and recording system - add 20 cameras
 - Install a dedicated cooling system in the telecommunications room
- Priority 4 – Long-Term Requirements:
 - Replace exterior wood of the main building
- Priority 5 – General Improvements:
 - Stripe paved parking lot

Facilities Life Cycle: Future Campus

- Brandee filed the Letter of Intent to enter into the new construction/renovation process with RIDE.

Facilities Life Cycle: Compass Farm

- Along with Monique Bosch and Dan Levinson from Main St. Resources, Brandee co-facilitated a garden tour in Connecticut to visit The Green Village Initiative's community farm and school gardens. 10 Compass representatives, including 2 Investigator students, attended the trip.
- A community discussion about the prospective project is scheduled for Friday, 9/9. 19 Compass representatives have RSVP'd to the event to date.
- A representative from the Lattner Foundation will attend the event on 9/9. Reports indicate that the project is of interest to the organization.
- Brandee met with Kateri Collins, a Compass parent, who is willing to facilitate collaboration between West Kingston Elementary and Compass via a garden club. She has already met with the principal who is on board. West Kingston Elementary could emerge as the first partner school for the project; they do not currently have a school garden.

Staff Configuration:

- No progress has been made with this area; it was not yet "green lighted" by Council.

STEAM Pilot

- Hilary Downes Fortune attended trainings with Fab Newport over the summer. One of the sessions focused on 3D printers - all attendees received a 3D printer for their school as part of the training. This new tool will be included in our STEAM pilot this year.
- The Investigators (5th/6th) are the first step to collaborate with this new program. Discoverers (3rd/4th) will participate 2nd trimester and Navigators (7th/8th) 3rd trimester.
- A Compass parent emailed the following message following the first class. "At diner, our daughter described the science experiment today and we debriefed as a family. It was a joyful family moment. Connecting math, technology, and science to Ava's passion for art is gives us hope for her professional future. Thanks!"
- Positive energy abounds in the early stages of the pilot.

Elective Pilot

- This pilot is in early stages of development. More information will be available by the next update.

Assessment

- Explorers are using Aimsweb and Pals for assessment.
- Special Education will continue with Aimsweb.
- 2nd - 8th grade will use iReady. All teachers have log in information and student accounts are prepared. Teachers will have professional development using the new tool on 9/14.

Other Topics

2016-17 Staff Search Updates:

- All vacancies have been filled.
- We've established a mentoring program where all new staff are partnered with a veteran staff member.

Legislative Updates: No information to report at this time.

League of Charter Schools: No information to report at this time.

Budget

- Due to low ridership, one bus has been eliminated from our bussing fleet. This came at a savings to Compass of \$25,000.
- The Lattner Foundation check in the amount of \$25,000 arrived.
- The legislative grant check in the amount of \$5,000 arrived.

- A parent of a Compass graduate donated \$1,000 to the 2016-17 annual fund. In the note, the parents thanked Compass teachers and administration for the “strong foundation” that the school offered their son who has moved on to high school.

Community Outreach

- Kristen Kardos, Compass parent and staff member attended the Clean Air Force convening in Washington DC. She represented Compass, making connections to our school’s mission and also our national legislative representatives.
- I wrote an outreach article that appeared in [The South County Press & Westerly Sun](#) “[Back to School Edition](#)”
- Council member Evan Preisser is working with colleagues at URI on a Compass-URI Connector Path through URI’s North Woods. This would offer a nature path that would ensure a safer travel between our two schools.

PARCC

- The 2016 PARCC results are now available.
- Compass ranked 3rd in the state (for the second year in a row) for ELA scores at both the elementary and middle school levels.
- Our Math scores improved by 11%, more than 2 times the state average.
- I will host two Test Talk with Ms. Brandee sessions on 9/12 and 9/13 for parents.
- More in depth analysis can be found in the [Test Talk presentation](#).