**Highland Community School Parent Board of Directors**

**Date: 9.13.2021 Time: 6-8 PM VIRTUAL**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Link to Meeting Recording**

Voting members in attendance: Leana Nakielski, Melissa Gibson, Amy Nelson Christenson, Jason Evans, Sheena Adams, Rochelle Bent-Johnson, Brain Litzsey, Carla Muñoz, Devon Pittman, Tresca Meiling

Voting members absent: None

Non-voting members in attendance: Barry Weber, Tracy Williams,

Community guests: 10

Guest speaker: Dr. Chris Ford, Children’s Hospital & Medical College of Wisconsin

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| Section | Notes | Additional Resources |
| Approval of August Minutes | Motion to approve: Brian  Second: Devon  8-0 in favor of approval  Action items: n/a | [Link to minutes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zg3eN1cE7vAhvfvgsdjB168XRDGcGTka/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=118409464390660404745&rtpof=true&sd=true) |
| Approval of Agenda | Addition of closed session (5 minutes)  Motion to approve: Jason  Second: Amy  8-0 in favor of approval  Action items: n/a | [Link to agenda](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PndKw7olr8d-nipSTHdO15q2AudP2R6vavIyzi9LoLQ/edit?usp=sharing) |
| ED Report | Return to school: Kids are happy! Staff shortages are greatest challenge (quarantines, sick days, etc.).  Attendance: 3rd Friday is this Friday, 9/17 (at 417 students, budgeting for 425 students); cannot accept MPS students during this week; worried about gap in budget v. enrolled. Charter schools cannot claim virtual students in their count, but waiting for info from MPS about whether we are required to provide SPED services to virtual students from HCS if we cannot include them in our count.  Assessment: STAR testing begins this week  Budget: Round 2 ESSER fund are determined; disbursed on reimbursement based on budget.  Programs: Full! First year with AP after-school program  COVID-19: 4 staff + 3 children with inconclusive tests; none tested positive with PCR (1 is still waiting on PCR test). Testing will be all PCR moving forward. Only unvaccinated staff required to test weekly moving forward. No plan for school closures unless there is a large-scale outbreak; focused on quarantining classes and meal cohorts.  Construction: October 12 on track; October 18 for AP move-in.  Board liaison: Ms. Alicia, Ms. Martha, and Ms. Stefanie are nominees; waiting on vote for 2021-2022 liaison.  Action items: Brian checking re: SPED support and virtual students | [Link to COVID test sign-up](https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov/en-US/) |
| Covid Discussion Framework | Presentation of framework to guide ongoing community decision-making.  Vaccine mandate (discussion only): MPS employees required to vaccinate by 11/1 (religious and medical exemptions); $100 incentives for MPS students. 11 community responses—all in favor of mandatory vaccination.  Staff/faculty sentiment: not trusting vaccine; vaccinated people are getting sick, too; okay with mandatory testing; 64% of staff fully vaccinated (does not consider all new after-school staff); majority of classroom teachers and assistants are vaccinated; resistance would be the biggest among programs staff (worried about losing staff). If we mandate vaccines, we risk losing staff and having to close down programs: What would that do for our families? What would that do to finances? But quarantining also impacts finances. Finance committee will discuss, but we can’t have them pay for programs they can’t use. Can we incentivize vaccination? Or should we be incentivizing retention? Why mandate if teachers are compliant with testing?  Student vaccination: Are we going to mandate or incentivize for children? Do we know if we are comparable with vaccination rates for MPS and other districts? Do we know how families feel about mandatory testing and/or vaccination for children?  Action items: Adding future voting item or future special meeting re: vaccine mandate? Surveying community re: vaccine mandate. Finance committee to discuss policy re: program fees when programs closed due to Covid and/or staffing issues. | Link to discussion framework |
| Covid Q&A | Guest speaker: Dr. Chris Ford, Children’s Hospital & Medical College of Wisconsin  Outdoor masking: Alpha variant is where we have data. The issue is mitigation. Mitigation asks, do you have a barrier between you? Outdoors and 6 feet is a mitigation factor with Alpha, but not as much with Delta, which is more transmissable. Masking + social distancing = safest mitigation factor with Delta.  Vaccination: Rumor for <12yo is early November. Boosters are in the pipeline.  Side effects / Reactions: MISE specifics aren’t well known; trials are looking at heart reactions in youth.  Children-specific dangers: As of this morning, the same children are considered high risk as when the pandemic began. Delta is more infectious than Alpha, which means more children are getting infected and getting severe infections than with Alpha.  Precautions: We have to get students learning as safely as possible. Vaccination, when it’s available, is the best level of protection.  Antibodies: You can get Delta after having Alpha.  Severity & Symptoms: Significant # of patients get severe cases, but the ‘walking well’ tend to fare well against Covid. But just because your kids do not get a serious case does not mean it isn’t a serious illness for the community.  Mandates: A reminder that for most of us, vaccines are our best line of defense against the cyclical nature of the virus. Wings of hospitals here in Milwaukee are closed because staff are not comfortable with the vaccine. But Dr. Ford is very clear that he makes no specific recommendation regarding our community’s decision to mandate or not.  Action Items: n/a | Link to recording  [Link to Qs submitted in advance](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BZtV4xfai25Ukoa1FzZQsRp-fxVvu6hQVopjLEn6Tas/edit?usp=sharing) |
| Board Reports | Executive: Minutes posted in Basecamp  Finance: Financials delayed; upcoming annual audit information  Governance: Retreat 9/25 9am-1pm; will be catered. Mixture of community building and governance work. Seeking suggestions for BIPOC-owned businesses who can cater the event. Suggestion that everyone gets tested two days before retreat. You’ll need a negative PCR test 72 hours prior to the meeting.  Fund Development: 2 separate fundraising campaigns (Annual Fund & Grow the Good). Ribbon cutting getting planned.  Action items: Hand in conflict of interest form and board commitment form; let us know about allergies. Get PCR tested 72 hours before retreat. | N/A |
| Action Items | Postponing handbook votes  Action items: Tracy to post handbooks in Basecamp. | N/A |
| Community Discussion | Community comments:   * Programs touch all the classrooms and will affect closures the most. * Program staff are with the youngest children, who will be the most vulnerable even longer. | N/A |
| Closed Session | Personal item | N/A |

**Summary of Action Items:**

1. Tracy: Post handbooks to Basecamp; develop/administer community survey re: vaccine mandates.
2. Brian: Checking re: HCS’s requirements to provide SPED support to virtual students.
3. Finance committee: Discuss/develop policy re: program fees when programs closed due to Covid and/or staffing issues.
4. All board members:
   1. Complete Conflict of Interest forms
   2. Complete Board Commitment forms
   3. Inform Governance Committee of any food allergies
   4. Get PCR tested 72 hours before board retreat (retreat is 9/25 at 9am).