

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUDGET, FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE) OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CENTENNIAL ACADEMY (CA) HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

The Committee met on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 5:30pm. Committee Members Renee Glover, Chair, Allison Toller and Eric Pinckney were in attendance. Joe Handy was unable to attend the meeting. Jessica Olowoyo, Head of School, and Steve Pressas, Chief Financial Officer, were also in attendance to support the Committee. Ms. Glover called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

**STATUS OF AUDIT**

Ms. Glover welcomed Ms. Toller to the Committee. Ms. Glover requested that Mr. Pressas, at the next Committee meeting, provide an overview of CA's Quality Basic Education (QBE) allocation from APS for the 2022-2023 School Year. Ms. Glover also asked Mr. Pressas to provide the Committee a current status of the audit by Warren Averett, the independent public accountants, who are conducting the audit of CA's FY 2022 financial statements. Mr. Pressas stated that the audit process is going well and no major issues or concerns have been raised. He stated that based on the audit schedule, Warren Averett will present the final draft of the audited FY 2022 CA financial statements to the Committee at our October meeting and to the full Board of Directors at our October meeting. Upon acceptance of the audit by the full Board, CA would submit CA's audited FY 2022 financial statements to Atlanta Public Schools and the Department of Education of the State of Georgia on or before November 1, 2022.

**REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE TWO MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022**

Mr. Pressas presented CA's unaudited financial reports for the two months ended August 31, 2022. With respect to the Statement of Financial Position, Mr. Pressas stated that CA's financial position remains strong. CA continues to be in compliance with the financial ratios and other financial benchmarks set forth in CA's Renewal Charter Agreement. Discussion was had regarding the need to develop a strategy and plan to invest CA's cash. Mr. Pressas agreed to consult with Warren Averett and come back to the Committee with a recommendation at our October Committee meeting.

Mr. Pressas then reviewed the Statement of Operations and the Budget to Actual report. As part of the review, discussion was had regarding CA's ongoing discussions with APS regarding CA's request to become a locally authorized charter school. Ms. Olowoyo stated that discussions to date have yielded little to no progress. She stated APS's focus has primarily been on school building capacity and overcrowding in the Midtown Cluster. Ms. Olowoyo stated that she has raised the issue of equity with Superintendent Lisa Herring and her team, given the concentration of homeless shelters in CA's mandatory attendance zone and the related extremely high mobility/churn rate. After extended discussion, the Committee members agreed that CA must continue to press these issues with APS and the APS Board members. The Committee members also volunteered to support CA's discussions of these issues with APS and APS Board members.

The Committee members also discussed the importance of staying focused on managing expenses in light of the realization that the QBE allocation is not sufficient to cover CA's operating expenses, especially given CA's extremely high churn rate and the significant incremental cost of providing support to scholars who reside in transitional housing. Because of its mandatory attendance zone and its status

as a conversion charter school, CA is serving the largest percentage of students experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity that any other public school in the APS district.

Ms. Olowoyo reviewed the current enrollment, which exceeds approximately 760 students. She stated that the enrollment is likely to be at 800 students at the time of the APS student count in October.

## **FACILITIES**

Ms. Olowoyo and Mr. Pressas provided a status of the discussions with APS regarding the roof leaks and other capital improvements to the CA building and learning lofts. Ms. Olowoyo and Mr. Pressas reported that after several meetings with APS, APS has agreed to cover 80% of the costs needed to replace and enhance the roof and CA has agreed to cover 20% of those costs up to \$100,000. APS and CA agreed that APS would manage the procurement and contracting and provide program management oversight of the work to replace and enhance the roof. Given the severity of the issue, Ms. Olowoyo and Mr. Pressas stated that CA must authorize CA to work with APS to fast track the roof replacement and enhancement work and authorize the expenditure by CA of up to 20% of the cost of the roof replacement work, not to exceed \$100,000. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Pinckney and seconded by Ms. Toller, the Committee unanimously approved (a) the expenditure by CA of 20% of the cost to replace and enhance the roof in an amount not to exceed \$100,000; (b) that Mr. Pressas identify an appropriate source of funds to be used to pay such costs; and (c) recommend approval by the full Board of Directors, upon identification of an appropriate source of funds.

Mr. Pressas also provided an update regarding the other capital improvement items as follows:

- (1) window replacement;
- (2) the HVAC system; and
- (3) other projects, including the learning lofts and indoor and outdoor recreational space.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.