



COLLEGE PARK ACADEMY

Board Meeting Minutes

Public Session

Date: September 26, 2023

Time: 6-8:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Attendance: Robert Day (Chair), Segun Eubanks, Bob Catlin, Carlo Colella, Carolyn Bernache, Jim Rosapepe, Hank Boyd, Kimberly Griffin, Gayatri Varma, Stephen Thomas, Erica Estrada-Liou, Sandy Abu-Arja, Steve Baker, Stephanie Ban, Nicole Nelson, Sean Mugrage

1. **Call to Order 6:09 pm**
2. **Opening Statement:** Robert Day welcomed and thanked everyone for a successful start of the school year.
3. **Review of the June 7, 2023 Minutes.** Carolyn Bernache put forth a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Rosapepe seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the board.
4. **Academic Affairs Committee Report:** Carolyn Bernache thanked everyone for their ongoing support.
 - a. **Board of Directors / PTO Executive Board dinner:** 7/30/23 the Board of Directors and the PTO Executive Board gathered for a meet and greet dinner to share personal experiences and brainstorm ideas to support continued collaboration.
 - b. **Back to School Night Italian ice socials:** Board/PTO collaboration was a huge success.
 - c. **Charter Implementation Bi-Annual Review:** Sandy Abu Arja shared that this data review process will be used to prepare for the SY25-26 charter renewal.
 - d. **Parent Engagement & Alumni Association Surveys:** Parents and alumni were encouraged to complete the surveys.
 - e. **Phase II Art Mural Project:** Installation scheduled for July 2024
 - f. **Arts Subcommittee Report:** Stephen Thomas reported that the Project Coordinator, Surayyah Khan has been hired. Parents, students and staff reps will also serve on the subcommittee. Jim Rosapepe thanked Stephen Thomas for his leadership and highlighted fiscal and facility restraints. CPA will keep an open mind and study the best art and music schools in the country. Robert Day thanked Carolyn Bernache & the committee.
5. **Marketing and Communications Committee Report:** Hank Boyd
 - a. **Marketing Website:** Hank Boyd shared plans to update the school website with an eye towards attracting a broader audience within Prince George's County.

Robert Day thanked the principals, administrators and staff.

9. **PTO Report:** Jordan Patty thanked the PTO Board for all their hard work.
 - a. **Membership** has grown to 70 parents pledging \$10 or donations.
 - b. **1st meeting** 10/3/2023 at CPA in-person.
 - c. **Back To School Night Socials** were a great success.
 - d. **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast** at the beginning of the year.
 - e. **Upcoming fundraisers** at Jersey Mikes and Franklins.

10. Announcements

- a. **Protected Bike Lane:** Sandy Abu-Arja thanked the CPA community for their patience with the new traffic flow. Everyone has been kind, courteous, and really supportive.
- b. **City of College Park Tutoring & Teen Talk:** Carolyn Bernache announced that the city will be providing free tutoring for students K-12. Link on [city website](#).
- c. **Office of Community Engagement:** Sandy Abu-Arja noted that there are more resources available through the [Office of Community Engagement at UMD](#) as well.
- d. **Mode of Transportation Survey Results:** Sandy Abu-Arja noted that all students have been surveyed about their mode of transportation to/from school. Nicole Nelson is working on a carpooling campaign.
- e. **Purple Line** Grade 6 students will eventually be able to use light rail to come to school once it is available.

11. Public Comment

- a. Sandy Abu-Arja gave a shoutout to Ms. McBean for arranging the Board Meeting Zooms and all that she does for CPA PTO.
- b. Jessica O’Roark shared comments from families attending the MS back-to-school night about foreign languages not being taught in person at CPA. After students complete Grade 6, all students learn foreign languages with virtual teachers. Students can reach out to the virtual teachers. There are live lessons on the landing page. Baker will check to see if CPA Plus can offer more robust tutoring. Jim Rosapepe suggested that Carolyn Bernache add a deep dive about languages in the Academic Affairs Committee. Steve Baker will get the data, how many students are taking foreign languages, what are their grades, etc.

12. **Adjournment:** Carlo Colella asked for a motion to adjourn from Public Session and move to the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, as permitted under the State's Open Meetings Act. Rob Day moved for a motion. Segun Eubanks seconded. All were in favor. Public session was adjourned at 7:38 pm.