



Cleveland Transformation Alliance

Minutes of the Board of Directors

June 14, 2021 | 5:30 PM

Via Zoom

In Attendance

Baumgartner, Mark
Bingham, Anne
Gibson, Richard
Heard, Robert
King, Brooke
Marbury, Shana

Mullin, Ann
Jordan, Sharon Sobol
Klupinski, Stephanie
Patterson, Jeffery
Payton, Kevin
Price, Monyka

Randel, Erin
Rosskamm, Alan
Ruiz, Victor
Williams, Helen
Zachariah, Sajit

Absent

Downing, Diane
Friedman, Lee
Gordon, Eric

Jackson, Mayor Frank
Napoli, Augie
Reyes, Jose

Tenney, Turkessa

Other Attendees

Bouder, Scarlett
McClung, Lori

Sogor, Lauren
Cleveland Documenter

Cleveland Transformation Alliance Staff

Marnecheck, Meghann

Stacy, Eli

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Monyka Price called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM. Dr. Price welcomed the Board and went over the agenda items for the meeting.

At 5:35 PM, Dr. Price opened the floor for discussion to approve the April 26, 2021 Board meeting minutes. Hearing no comment, Dr. Price asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Anne Bingham made the motion to accept the minutes. Then, Mr. Robert Heard seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes for the April 26, 2021 Board meeting.



2021 Executive Director Goals Update

At 5:36 PM, Ms. Marnecheck went over the progress to date of her 2021 Executive Director Goals.

Dr. Price asked if CTA was using the Ambassadors and Navigators to increase family participation in Family Café events, and Ms. Marnecheck stated yes. Furthermore, Dr. Price asked why there was a difference between the 500 Ambassador goal in Ms. Marnecheck's report and the 350 Ambassador goal in Mr. Eli Stacy's report. Ms. Marnecheck stated that Mr. Stacy would respond to that question during his report.

Lastly, Dr. Price asked how Ms. Marnecheck facilitated meetings with school leadership. Ms. Marnecheck stated that she had been using virtual platforms to communicate. Dr. Price recommended speaking with the Chief Academic Officers of schools to facilitate the conversation with principals, as a group, for more significant impact and cohesiveness.

Ms. Ann Mullin thanked Ms. Marnecheck for the update. Dr. Price asked when Ms. Marnecheck would have the next update. In response, Ms. Marnecheck stated she could give an update during the October Board Meeting.

Ambassador and Navigator Report Update

At 5:56 PM, Mr. Stacy went over the Ambassador and Navigator Report.

In response to Dr. Price's previous question, Mr. Stacy explained that the 500 Ambassador goal was a goal set by Ms. Marnecheck for Mr. Stacy in 2021, but the 350 Ambassador goal came from the Abington Foundation grant that wraps up on June 30.

Dr. Price asked Ms. Marnecheck and Mr. Stacy to think more about what CTA could do to reach more than 120 families in the future. Dr. Price recommended the Navigators connect to Say Yes Cleveland Family Support Specialist, Recreation Center Family Trauma Coaches, and county counterparts. Ms. Mullin noted her discomfort with Navigators attempting to assist families with other resources outside of educational needs. Ms. Marnecheck emphasized that Say Yes Cleveland was one of the Partner Organizations listed and that CTA always contacts the Family Support Specialist when applicable. However, Ms. Marnecheck reiterated that not all of Cleveland's public schools have a Family Support Specialist.

Ms. Erin Randel asked what triggered a call to CTA. Mr. Stacy advised her the Navigators mainly used data from the 2020 Summer Listening Campaign Surveys. Following up, Ms. Randel asked



what families were in the district, charter, and parochial systems. Then, Ms. Randel wanted to know how many of those families were in a school choice phase in a given year. Dr. Helen Williams stated that there were 2000 students in the graduating class. Furthermore, Ms. Randel noted that Navigators should focus on aiding eighth-graders and preschoolers.

Dr. Williams stated CTA created the Navigator Program to help families, and she referred a family to the Navigators for assistance. Moreover, Dr. Williams asserted that CTA could assist families that were not comfortable speaking to CMSD. Ms. Marnecheck stated there probably were around 50,000 school-aged students in Cleveland. Ms. Marnecheck explained that CTA intended the Ambassador program to impact higher numbers because every family did not need more significant help.

Cleveland Plan Refresh Updates

At 6:24 PM, Ms. Lori McClung with Advocacy and Communication Solutions (ACS) went over the Cleveland Plan Refresh Updates given to the Board prior.

Ms. Mullin highlighted the need for a platform for parents to inform the district of their feelings about school teachers and staff. Mr. Mark Baumgartner was concerned about actionable parental feedback. Clarifying, Ms. Mullin explained that she was not aware of a mechanism for hearing parental concerns. In addition, Mr. Baumgartner questioned how CTA would measure it. Mr. Kevin Payton agreed with Mr. Baumgartner that parental feedback could result in disciplining school staff. Due to time constraints, Ms. Lori McClung asked for Board Members to hold a small group conversation on the matter.

Mr. Baumgartner was unsure how peer and student feedback about educators differed from measuring the educator's relationships with students.

Ms. Stephanie Klupinski asked if community engagement could include how well schools prepare students to participate in a civil society. Ms. Randel added that she would like to change the word engagement to connections in the indicators.

Ms. Bingham asked for clarity of what a connected community with high-speed internet meant. Ms. McClung explained that the community needed access to high-speed internet for educational purposes. In response, Ms. Bingham asked who would be responsible for the indicator because it has been outside of CTA's purview. Ms. McClung stated that multiple community agencies would be responsible for the indicator because the Cleveland Plan is not just the responsibility of the schools or CTA.



Mr. Alan Rosskamm asked if the technology category was missing the use of data to enable personalized learning.

Mr. Baumgartner was concerned with the word “blended” because he did not believe that students should simultaneously do remote and in-person learning. However, Mr. Payton disagreed with Mr. Baumgartner about blended learning and thought the CTA should leave it to the school and educators to determine. Mr. Rosskamm stated that the word blended overstated it. Mr. Baumgartner, Mr. Payton, Mr. Rosskamm, and Ms. Brooke King asked to speak about the matter in a small group.

Under student achievement and progress, Mr. Rosskamm asked for progress in four learning domains to be parsed out. Ms. McClung stated that she didn’t have it parsed out on the page to conserve space, but she would highlight it in the larger document.

Dr. Williams added the word “success” should be added to the involvement in post-high school activities indicator.

Mr. Rosskamm stated that the Cleveland Plan should not remove standardized testing as an indicator. Additionally, Dr. Williams added that civic engagement should be added to the student achievement and progress category.

Under finance, Dr. Williams questioned the use of funds dedicated to the non-academic needs of students and families because she believed schools should spend in conjunction with academic requirements. Moreover, Dr. Williams asked to work with Ms. Randel, Mr. Rosskamm, Mr. Payton, and Mr. Baumgartner to address the resource allocation indicator.

Ms. McClung updated the Board on the next steps and updates. Specifically, ACS wanted to highlight that the Ohio Senate passed a budget allowing religious organizations to open charter/community schools and covid relief money moving to the state.

Research Contract with Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI) Discussion and Vote

At 7:10 PM, Ms. Marnecheck went over the scope of work for the research contract with the Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI). Ms. Marnecheck highlighted NLI would be doing community engagement. Furthermore, CTA would step in to gather more data from charter parents if NLI needed assistance. Finally, Ms. Marnecheck stated that the cost of the contract



was \$13,200. CTA would fund \$3,200 and seek a \$10,000 grant from the Cleveland Foundation and Gund Foundation to cover the remainder of the cost.

Mr. Rosskamm stated that NLI should be required to focus on CMSD and charter school parents equally. In agreement, Dr. Price added that NLI should ensure they sought charter school stakeholders to interview. Ms. Randel stated that she had to abstain from the vote because she was a part of their alumni network.

At 7:16 PM, Dr. Price asked if there was further discussion or comment. Hearing no further comment, Dr. Price asked for a motion to approve the resolution for the Cleveland Transformation Alliance to enter into a contract with NLI not to exceed \$13,200 for research to gather additional information for the Cleveland Plan Refresh conversation. Mr. Rosskamm made the motion to approve the resolution with the amendment that NLI would seek charter school input. Then, Ms. King seconded the motion. 12 Board Members approved the resolution for the Cleveland Transformation Alliance to enter into a contract with NLI not to exceed \$13,200 for research to gather additional information for the Cleveland Plan Refresh conversation. Ms. Randel voted to abstain.

Adjournment

Ms. Marnecheck advised the Board that the next Board Meeting would take place on August 16, 2021, at 5:30 PM, and would probably be in person. Dr. Price asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Sajit Zachariah motioned to adjourn, and Ms. Bingham seconded the motion. Dr. Price adjourned the meeting at 7:19 PM.