



Meeting Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors – Envision Education
Thursday, September 10, 2020

The California Governor's Executive Order Number N-29-20 has suspended some provisions in the Brown Act and allows meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic to occur entirely telephonically.

I. Preliminary

1. Call to Order

- Board Chair Mark Daoust called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

2. Roll Call

- Attendees: Mark Daoust, Larry Hancock, Kaleb Lawson, Bob Lenz, Susan Portugal, Michelle Seijas, Rhonnel Sotelo, Tara Thomas, Gia Truong, Mark Yowe, Gay Hoagland (joined at 4:06pm), Rob Vassel (joined at 4:12pm), Akil Hollis (joined at 4:17pm), Keysha Bailey (joined at 4:31pm), Kathi Burke (joined at 5:35pm)
- Not present: n/a
- Others Present: Sarah Chostner, Sele Nadel-Hayes, Justin Wells, Javier Cabra Walteros, Stephen Parlett, Renee Swayne, Peter Rivera

3. Adopt the Agenda

- Motion: Mark Yowe
- Second: Bob Lenz
- Approved by voice vote: 10 Yes 0 No

II. Comments – Chair & CEO:

- Mark recognized the Senior Leadership Team for the preparations for the school year, and in particular the inclusive process that Javier ran to design the program. He offered Board support in terms of guidance, support, and pushes.
- Mark invited Stephen Parlett to introduce himself.
- Gia shared goals for the year. The first four are student outcomes. Students will demonstrate growth in key competencies in each discipline, increase our students' sense of belonging by 10%, and growth in three graduate profile skills, and we have a 85% 4-year college acceptance goal for the Class of 2021. The last three are organizational enablers to achieve our strategic ambitions: becoming an anti-racist and pro-Black organization, strategic budgeting, and quality of ELP services.
- Gia also shared that Envision has been reflecting a lot and recognizes that we are in a different stage than we were in when our organization was founded. We were wondering if our mission, which was created more than 15 years ago and our vision still resonated with our key stakeholders. We want our key stakeholders to see themselves in our mission and vision statements. There are early indicators that we need to refresh them as a community.
- Gia shared that she will bring a plan to engage the Board in that process because ultimately the board approves our mission and vision. Today, Javier will present the instructional framework that he has created and will engage the board in that preliminary reflection.

III. Public Comments and Announcements:

- There were no public comments

IV. Consent Agenda

- Ratification of EE Special Board Meeting Minutes: June 25, 2020

- Approval of Board Resolution and FY2020 Education Protection Account (EPA) Expenditures
- Approval of Board Resolution concerning FY2020 Maintenance of Effort Calculation
- Confirmation of receipt of Report to the Envision Education Board of Directors Regarding Fingerprinting and Background Clearance Compliance 2020-21
- Approval of Resolution of Submission of Petition of Renewal of Charter of City Arts and Technology High School
- Motion: Tara Thomas
- Second: Larry Hancock
- Approved by voice vote: 12 Yes 0 No

V. Governance: Celebrating retiring board member

- Mark Daoust shared appreciation for Mark Yowe and his strategic guidance and support of Envision, through Evening with Envision and as a model board member and family member.
- Susan shared that Mark served in a way that made it look easy. He gave tirelessly of his time and resources. Susan named three characteristics that stand out in Mark's leadership: Commitment, Action, and Deep Thinking. Susan thanked him for his mentorship and encouragement.
- Sarah shared that Mark exemplifies a Board member and Committee chair through a combination of strategic thought partnership, cheerleading, pushing and holding accountable. So much of Evening with Envision's greatness is because of Mark's quiet leadership. Under Mark's leadership for the past 4 years, Evening with Envision raised \$1.4M for Envision students.
- Gia shared her appreciation for Mark Yowe's leadership and service in the five years he's been on this board. Today is his last day as Mark has chosen to retire from our board to move into his next stage of retirement. Mark has served on the Executive Committee, the Governance Working Group, the Development Lead, the board lead for our annual fundraiser Evening With Envision, and the ELP lead.
- Akil shared how Mark welcomed him and made him feel more comfortable when he joined the Board.
- Mark Yowe shared that the 5 years on Envision's Board have gone by in a flash and he was always amazed by the accomplishments every year. He shared that he looked forward to the meetings and loved being on the Board.

VI. Instructional Program Deep Dive

- Michelle gave a shout-out to Javier for his leadership. She shared that the Deep Dive represents where we are and where we're headed. The plan is our shared purpose, and brings together Envision's existing strengths and where we are headed. Two parts of the plan are adult-facing and two are student-facing. Michelle encouraged the Board to grow alongside the staff in our critical pedagogy.
- Javier shared an evolving pedagogical framework for Envision. He started by listening to lots of staff about the beauty and struggles at Envision. He heard three areas where we have an opportunity to align our work at Envision: culturally relevant pedagogy, project-based learning, standards-based instruction. He named four pedagogies we are prioritizing in our instructional program - Critical Pedagogy, Disciplinary Pedagogy, Community and Restorative Pedagogy, and Metacognitive Reflection - and four accompanying outcomes for students - Critical Education, Disciplinary Education, Humanizing Education, and Reflection-Oriented Education.
- Javier shared our current mission and vision. Board members and members of the public went into breakout rooms to discuss what they would like to see in our mission and vision, and then shared highlights in the chat. Javier then shared themes he heard from when he and Principals did this same exercise with staff.
- Javier gave an overview of two of the pedagogies, and participants processed those in small breakout groups. In the full group, Akil asked about Zaretta Hammond's quote on student motivation, and Javier talked about the potential for bias and racism when focusing on students' motivation.
- Finally, Javier gave an overview of the other two pedagogies and explained how Metacognitive Reflection ties to what makes Envision's unique: the focus on project-based learning, performance assessment and Portfolio Defense.
- Rob asked about key measures and outcomes, and Javier shared a voiceover of our key measures of success for each pedagogy.

VII. Schools Update

- Mark asked about attendance. Sele shared that attendance has been really strong so far, both in synchronous classes and in the extra tiered supports. Gia shared the positive feedback so far from students and families about how supported and valued they feel, and how we're working with our teacher committee and union to adapt as needed to support staff sustainability.
- Keysha asked about our decision-making process for reopening in person and Sarah shared more information about the multiple stages of reopening we anticipate and how we will align guidance from state and county public health with the needs of students and families with staff accommodation needs.

VIII. Envision Learning Partners Update

- Justin emphasized the two main messages of the ELP update shared in advance: The ELP strategic priorities of *Quality* and *Sustainability* will be areas of focus in the year to come, in response to particular opportunities and challenges presented by the pandemic. And ELP is emerging from the summer in a strong position to meet or surpass its revenue target for FY21.
- In discussion, the Board responded to the following question: Given ELP's focus on Quality and Sustainability in the year to come, what strategies can you recommend or cautions can you highlight?
- The Board asked questions about how Distance Learning is leading to different types of service requests from clients; how the disruption in standardized testing is impacting the perceived value of performance assessment; how homogeneous the response from district clients is; what the cost/benefit analysis of diversifying services is; whether ELP has done a pivot SWAT. Justin responded and appreciated the guidance.

IX. Development Update

- Sarah shared our fundraising goal for this year, which includes schools and ELP, and our areas of focus to achieve that goal. She then asked the Board for their input on a Reimagined "Evening" with Envision.
- Susan asked for an example of a mini-match campaign and Sarah shared an example.
- Stephen mentioned that email / virtual campaigns are harder than something live. He suggested that Envision think about using videos and messages from our students. The corporate philanthropic pot seems to be growing due to the racial uprising.
- Michelle shared that Lakisha Young at the Oakland REACH did a shadow of a day in the life of a student, followed by a fundraising ask.
- Sarah asked the board to connect us to corporate funders.
- Gay shared that tying the gift to something tangible would be a good hook.
- Sarah shared that Evening with Envision is one evening. With a virtual event, we can do it several times. She asked for the board's input.
- Mark Daoust shared that a concentrated event helps Board members rally their networks, but having a diverse menu of ways to give would be good as well.
- Rob said that we just need to try it. Rob said it would be good to do it before Thanksgiving, but noted the complexity the election may bring.

X. Finance Update

- Sele shared our approach to managing the uncertain economic road ahead.
- Sele asked if the board had any clarifying questions from the finance update in the board packet.
- Sele outlined the financial road ahead: FY2020 - Year-end close reflects a strong surplus. Surplus feeds Envision's cash reserves and includes revenues to be restricted for use in FY2021; FY2021: State budget holds off on significant revenue reductions, but relies on 6 months of cash deferrals beginning in February 2021 requiring use of cash reserves and line of credit to pay obligations. Envision receives \$1.6M in restricted one-time revenues related to COVID-19. Income statement looks to have a healthy surplus, but is mostly restricted funds and deferrals demand conservative spending to ensure cash will last for 6 months; FY2022 - Several scenarios in play including flat revenue or significant revenue reductions due to economic downturn, and continued state cash deferrals.
- Envision continues to manage cash carefully and use one-time revenues to avoid more significant expense reductions

XI. Learning Continuity Plan & Public Comment

- Sarah shared that the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCP) is the state's replacement for the LCAP this year, which details our plans to ensure high-quality learning for our students. She shared the process that each school went through to engage the community - staff, students, and families - on the proposed actions and expenditures, including soliciting written recommendations. This process included 5+ family meetings at each site to co-design and give input on our Distance Learning program and Learning Continuity Plan.
- The LCPs for City Arts and Tech, Envision Academy, and Impact Academy are all available on the schools' websites, and this meeting serves as an opportunity for public review and comment on the plans.
- Kathi asked two clarifying questions about the Plans.
- Mark asked for public comment. There were no public comments.

XII. Closed Session: Personnel (G.C. 54957) CEO Evaluation

XIII. Report Out from Closed Session

- Board Chair Mark Daoust shared that there's nothing to report from Closed Session.

XIV. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm