



St. Coletta Special Education Public Charter School

1901 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC

Board Meeting
September 11, 2024
6:30 pm
In Person and Zoom

Draft Meeting Minutes

Welcome, roll call, and the meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM

Board Members in Attendance- In Person- Josh Lewis, Janel Brown, Shanta Bryant, Francis Campbell

In Attendance via ZOOM Carla Ware-Easterling

Not In Attendance- Charles Henstenburg and Frances Slaughter

Approval of the minutes of the previous board meeting (July 10, 2024) with correction of spelling for F. Campbell and F. Slaughter. The corrections were made, and the meeting minutes were voted on at 6:37 PM.

Period of open comment and questions from members of the public- Members of the public did not participate in this meeting.

St Coletta Mission Moment – Gwen Green, history of educational background and school employment.

The State of the School: Highlights and Challenges since last board meeting in May

Headlines from School/Goals for the School Year —Amy Warden, Principal

St. Colletta welcomed forty (40) new hires into the school environment for the 2024-2025 school year. Training was completed in a timely manner to acclimate the new staff to the school and returning staff assisted with classroom set-up. Open House was held on August 23, 2024. Books were provided for families to take home. The new school year for the students began on August 26, 2024. The goals for the school year are to increase data usage, collaboration between teachers, therapy teams, behavior support specialists and instructional aides. Also, improvement in the retention of therapy staff. The plan will focus on classroom observation and feedback.

Enrollment- currently six (6) slots are available to meet full enrollment of 250 students.

Needs – recruiting needs for Social Worker (1), AT Specialist (1), Classroom Teachers (3), Para-professionals (2). Staff are currently being trained to support students with Dyslexia, per DC/ OSSE Dyslexia Legislation. A training video for students with visual impairment has been completed.

Due Process- Two (2) claims are pending, however, have not been filed to date.

Suspensions- Zero (0) suspensions recorded for the current school year.

Upcoming Events at the School- Fall Festival, Celebrations and Professional Development Day to address goal development.

Financial Report—Michael Olivarri, CFO

Current Budgetary Funds- SCGW is currently undergoing the audits of the PCS and St. Coletta books for the year ended 6/30/2024. The audits are in the early stages and there are no issues to report. All financial statements and reports requiring submission to the DC PCSB for the quarter ended 6/30/2024 were submitted timely. These include routine quarterly financials as well as supplemental reports required as part of our receipt of the \$1m supplemental funding from DC.

Additional comments—Mike Rodrigues, CEO

Follow up on financial report to emphasize the overall organization is operating on a surplus of \$1.4 million in FY24, after operating at a deficit of \$2.4 million the year prior. A \$3.8 million turnaround in one fiscal year.

Revenue- over a three-year period FY2023, 2024, 2025, growth of 40 % without adding services. SCGW is now a \$30 million/year organization.

Staff- feedback of improved feeling about the organization, closer to full staffing.

UPSFF- We received notice that OSSE and the DME will be leading a working group to develop a comprehensive report on recommended modifications to the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) for Fiscal Year 2026. The primary focus this year will be evaluating the need for a new special education weight in the UPSFF. This is a positive development and St C leadership will be participating on the workgroup.

School items for noting/discussion

Strategic Plan – No significant updates since the detailed discussion at the July Board Meeting.

Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) – potential plans for following up on the work completed with Lassiter. Waiting on additional details and next steps from Kaiheem.

October Gratitude Reception- invite friends/colleagues/etc to the event, engage with potential people interested in networking/board development, improve awareness of the school and fundraising for the organization.

Board Development- continues to be a priority. The current board will be focusing on recruiting new members, especially given the two-year term limits on board positions now in the bylaws.

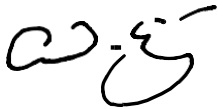
Votes to extend the board terms of Ms. Frances Slaughter and Mr. Francis Campbell- for a three-year extension. Board Members voted to unanimously extend the terms for both board members.

Other business- A suggestion for the November 2024 Board meeting to be scheduled as a virtual meeting.

A call was made to adjourn the public meeting at 7:44 PM with all voting Board Members in agreement.

The Next Scheduled Meeting for the St. Coletta Public Charter School Board will occur on Wednesday November 13, 2024, at 6:30 PM in person at 1901 Independence Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003 and on ZOOM.

The meeting minutes from September 11, 2024, will be reviewed and voted on for approval by the St. Coletta PCS Board during the November 2024 St. Coletta PCS Board Meeting.



Carla Ware-Easterling
St. Coletta Public Charter School Board Secretary and Parent Representative

This meeting is governed by the DC Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.