



Perspectives

Perspectives Board Meeting

March 6, 2025, 10:00 pm to 1:00 pm

EY Headquarters: 155 N. Wacker, #2000

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82535683154>

Board Members Present:

Rick Fezell (via Zoom)
DeEtta Jones (via Zoom)
Michelle Handy (In Person)
Adrienne Irmer (In Person)
Bill Mack (In Person)
Catrina Mitchell (In Person)
Debi Mitra (In Person)
Kathleen Murray (In Person)
Maryah Phillips (In Person)
Alex Silverberg (In Person)
Vanessa Smith (In Person)
Sheree Speakman (In Person)
Deborah Stevens (In Person)
Kareem Trice (In Person)
Kim Waller (In Person)
George Wright (In Person)

Board Members Absent

Ikram Goldman
Andrew Killion
Andrew Moyer
Andy Ward

Guests:

Demitri Handy (in Person)
Holly Copeland (In Person)
Tracy Fletcher (Via Zoom)
Amore Porter (Via Zoom)
Amy Gambrel (Via Zoom)
Leanna Lantz (Via Zoom)
Stephen Todd (In Person)
Earnestine Williams (In Person)

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am

The Conflict-of-Interest Policy was reviewed. Board Members were asked if there were any Conflicts of Interest, and none were cited.

A motion was made (by Rick Fezell) and seconded (by William Mack) to approve the Umbrella Resolution, including the Minutes of the Meeting of October 31, 2024 and the election of Catrina Mitchell and Andrew Moyer as Board Members. The two incoming Board Members recused themselves from the vote since they are being elected. The Board unanimously approved the Umbrella Resolution (12 In Person & 2 via Zoom).

An opportunity for Public Comment was made available. No one was present on Zoom or in person to provide Public Comment.

Discussion turned at once to the shooting at the Perspectives Leadership Campus two days before where 3 masked youth jumped out of a car on 85th Street and starting shooting at a target. The target ran to the school building and entered (unhurt) but an unintended,



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innocent and unrelated student was shot. In all, 33 bullet casings were found on the school grounds. At the time of the meeting, the student was in the ICU and doing well. A very brave friend ran back toward the bullets to put a coat over her friend, shield her from more harm, and tourniquet her leg.

Since it happened at 7:37 am, a lot of students were in transit and entering the school. Staff got all the students into the building and put the building on lockdown. Staff also went out to the entrances to alert parents that we were on lockdown and to take their student(s) home. Staff devised a safe exit plan for each student and ensured that each student was picked up by a parent/guardian.

Staff met with Commander Tate of the 6th District. The CPD will have cars at the entrance and on 85th street for each entry and dismissal for the next 10 days. The Commander also offered to meet with the Parents at the school (scheduled for March 13th).

The Board asked many questions about the incident including about the security measures that are in place and what we planned to do differently in the future. We explained the plan to have CPD at the two entry points each morning and at dismissal in the short term. Rick Fezell formed a Safety Committee of the Board and asked that the staff review our safety measures and present any changes made at the next Board meeting in April.

The Governance Committee presented information on FY25 Board Members, FY25 Board Meetings, Board Committees, and Board Training requirements.

The REDI/Education Committee gave presentations about the Charter Renewal, year long goals performance to date, new ISBE performance research, and a semester update. The Board had discussed partnering with neighborhood elementary schools to reduce the number of new students starting at Perspectives whose screener scores start significantly below their grade levels. However, Perspectives students come from 213 unique schools across Chicago and the most from any school is nine students. Therefore, the idea was tabled.

The Finance Committee presented FY25 December Preliminary Unaudited Financial Statements and FY25 Forecast versus Revised Budget. Perspectives hitting our Fundraising target of \$1.25 million is key to breaking even for the year. A review of our investment portfolio was presented. And Tracy Fletcher presented on our student recruiting update, including our strategy for attracting new students who are transferring from Acero's closing schools.

Holly Copeland, EVP of External Affairs, presented on our Peace initiative, upcoming events, pipeline, and communications strategy. Holly also presented on our fundraising financials year to date. Rick Fezell asked the Board to fully take part in fundraising for our upcoming Showcase on April 9th.



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Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. A motion was made (by Sheree Speakman), seconded, and unanimously approved (14 in person, 2 via Zoom) to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 pm.