



Perspectives

Perspectives Board Meeting

April 9, 2025, 2024, 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Old Post Office, 433 W. Van Buren

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83907648542>

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent

Ikram Goldman
Andrew Killion
Vanessa Smith
George Wright

Guests:

Demitri Handy (in Person)
Holly Copeland (In Person)
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 4:00 pm by Rick Fezell

A motion was made by Rick Fezell and seconded (by William Mack) to approve the Resolution to Renew the Revolving Credit. The Board unanimously approved the Resolution (13 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 to the Board Subcommittee's work to understand the Network's safety protocols and any changes made because of the recent shooting at the Perspectives Leadership Campus. Board Chair Rick Fezell visited the Perspectives Leadership Campus, met with School Leadership, Security Leadership, and walked the 85th street corridor where the shooting took place. Staff presented the Safety Program which includes:

- Annual spending for holistic school culture and safety of \$9 million including supportive SEL, supportive partnerships, and supportive staff.



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- The list of twenty-two community partners, including Captain Tate and the 6th District police, CPS Safety and Security, and other community leaders and organizations including GAGCD, St. Sabina.
- Safety Strategy & Tactics including
 - Invest families and community partners in the shared goal of peace and SEL through parent nights and meetings, Peace PR campaign and Peace Summit, and regular Parent Communications
 - Implement proactive and deterrent safety measures within our sphere of influence including “If you See Something, Say Something” PR Campaign, trained Security and off-duty officers, safe entry: metal detectors, bag searches, and Parent Patrol, and effective monitoring: Perimeter checks and security cameras
 - Nurture relationships with community safety organizations to expand our sphere of influence including participating in Commander Watson’s mentoring programs, Area 6 Commander & Alderman Partnerships, and St. Sabina Mentoring
 - Ensure students have meaningful academic, SEL, and extracurricular experiences including robust SEL interventions, SEL staff investment: ADL Mentors, Restorative Coaches, Social Workers, significant investment in out-of-school time: Afterschool Programs and Athletics, and high-quality curricular materials and adamic intervention
 - Actively repaid harm when it occurs, to prevent further harm and break cycles of community violence including personalized restorative justice implementation, mediations and Peace councils, and CPS safety and security partnershipsRelationships are the foundation for any effective strategy or tactic.

- Tier 1 Security and SEL Tactics were listed and discussed in detail:

	Tier 1 Baseline (80%)	Tier 2 Additional Support (15%)	Tier 3 Targeted Support (5%)
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Metal Detectors• Daily Bag Searches• Regular Guard Training• Camera Systems• Perimeter Checks• Staff Hallway Presence:• Regular Drills (Lockdown, Fire, Severe Weather)• Parent Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mediations• Staggered Dismissal Plans• Student Safety Plans• Strategic Student Scheduling & Locker Placement• Random Locker Searches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPD Calls• Off-Duty Police Presence• CPS Safety & Security Support
SEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See Something, Say Something: Parents and Students• ADL Mentoring• Town Halls• Student Incentives• Afterschool & Athletic Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evolve Mentoring• Check-In, Check-Out• Attendance Contracts• Behavior Agreements• Parent Meetings• Restorative Convos• St. Sabina Mentoring• Student Peace Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Work Counseling• Suspensions• Referral to Outside Agencies• Student Hospitalization• Social workers and psychologists provide individual support

The basis of all of these tiers, for security and SEL, is relationships!



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Board Members asked many questions about the circumstances and protocols added or changed to prevent any similar events in the future.

Staff presented on the CPS & CTU Contract and particularly the pay rates negotiated. Information was also presented on the preparation time available for CPS teachers and class sizes. Relative pay rates, preparation time, and class size will continue to impact Perspectives' ability to attract high quality, experienced, certified teachers. PCS Board Members asked questions about all three areas and how we compete in attracting teachers.

Staff presented on the advocacy activities undertaken to ensure a longer charter renewal. A list of presenters at Board of Education Board meetings, the Charter School Renewal Public Hearings, and Agenda Review meetings. To date, 18 Perspectives parents, alumni, students, and staff members presented to the Board of Education. Staff also presented on the timeline for the Charter Renewal application, starting in July 2024 Renewal Application, through the October 2024 site visits (including providing 736 documents) and 13 days of observations, the Board's participation in Focus Groups and Board of Education Member engagement activities (3 Board of Education Members visited– one to each school).

Holly Copeland, EVP of External Affairs, presented a fundraising update that showed that we are approximately \$769,634 short of our fundraising target for the year and made an appeal for everyone to raise their paddle at the Showcase that evening to support Perspectives' students.

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 5:00 pm.