

Minutes

Council Board Meeting

March 15, 2018

5:00 – 7:30 P.M.

Blazing Star Room – Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar Street – Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Maeda called the meeting to order at 5:10 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Present:

Dave Hoang

David Maeda

Famaati Winey

Grace Lee

Hafiz Munir

Zoe Zhi

Senator Carolyn Laine

Representative JoAnn Ward

Dr. Tsewang Ngodup

Staff: Sia Her, Karina Vang, Anjuli Cameron, and Dave Sukharan

Absent: Anil Hurkadli, Sharon Lim, Senator Roger Chamberlain, Representative Rod Hamilton, and George Thawmoo.

With 9 out of 14 voting members present, there was a quorum.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2018 MINUTES

Chair Maeda presented to the board the meeting minutes of January 18, 2018.

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of January 18, 2018.

BY: Senator Laine, and seconded by Ms. Zhi. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2018 AGENDA

Chair Maeda presented to the board the meeting agenda of March 15, 2018.

MOTION: To approve the meeting agenda of March 15, 2018.

BY: Ms. Lee, and seconded by Senator Laine. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

IV. MARCH 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Zhi, the board Treasurer has nothing to report as it relates to the March financial report.

Ms. Her shared that with the open position of the Legislative Liaison we will have an estimated cost saving of \$17,000 to \$20,000 by end of this fiscal year.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Her talked about the strategic plan and reminded board members of how we arrived at this current document. Ms. Her also went over staffing details, and reminded board members that the office only has three full time staff and one part-time intern since Tou Xiong resigned right before the session began. Also, Ms. Her reported on the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention

Fund bill. Of importance is the fact that the first policy deadline, March 22nd, is here, so the staff team hopes to secure a hearing for this bill by or on Thursday, March 22nd.

Mr. Hafiz asked about the Council's position on data disaggregation (referring to the All Kids Count Act), and if the Council will take any action on this policy. He said some board members and community members are concerned about this.

Ms. Lee answered that the Council supported this bill, and then proceeded to explain why the Council has a policy on the issue of data disaggregation.

Ms. Her shared that API Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Thursday, April 12th. She explained why this year's theme is focused on API youth – that last year's API Day saw a large turnout of students. Their feedback after the event was that they would like the Council's API Day to be a vehicle for lifting up their voices, too, and not just the voices of policy makers and people who're already in leadership positions. At this time, staff are working to confirm visits to community groups, and will follow up via email with board members for the purpose of providing them with information on legislative visits if they are interested in shadowing these.

Representative Ward asked what role board members play at this event. Ms. Her responded that it is important that community members see our board members, and can engage directly with them if the former wishes to do so. Also, it is as simple as having the board members present so community members present know who our board members are. It's also important for the board members to observe the community and engage with them in this space that is the Capitol.

VI. COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

Chair Maeda welcomed Mr. Josh Crosson, Senior Policy Director at Education Allies and Ms. Kaying Yang, Director of Programs and Partnerships from the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL). Mr. Crosson presented on the work his organization and others are doing to advance equity, and honed in on why the All Kids Count Act is pertinent to this effort. Some of the data points Mr. Crosson pointed out included that two out of five students are low-income, and one out of three students are people of color/native in Minnesota.

Mr. Crosson also pointed out key provisions within the All Kids Count Act, such as that which allows for parents to opt out of responding to the question pertaining to the race/ethnicity of their students. The availability of disaggregated data, Mr. Crosson and other proponents believe will allow us to understand trends in students that we can better create courses to meet their needs and learning styles. The All Kids Count Act does not change federal law requirements.

A period of time dedicated to questions from the board members followed the presentation. During this time, members of the board and community expressed concerns about this law, including their fear of discrimination and limited resources being shifted to groups identified with disaggregated data as challenged. The exchange became overly passionate to the point where some in the room, including the presenters, expressed discomfort with statements being made by members of the Council board.

VII. STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Ms. Her reported that while she has drafted a work plan for the staff which includes content taken from the strategic plan the document is not ready for prime time, yet.

VIII. BOARD DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE DISCUSSION

This agenda item comes from the work plan board members put together with the guidance of the MAD consultant, Barb Deming. The next step in the process entails the establishment of a Board Development Task Force. This task force will be tasked with taking the duties identified in the work plan framework, and returning to the board with recommendations on how to carry out these objectives. Vice Chair Hoang asked that the board be reminded of the duties of this task force. He also mentioned that it's important to identify the roles and responsibilities of task force members. In conclusion, the board agreed that staff will send out an email to the board detailing the roles/duties of this task force; board members are to reply to this email if they are interested in serving on the task force.

Once the Task Force has been created, the board Chair will convene the first meeting. At this meeting, board members will select a task force Chair, and identify a sunset date for the task force. Members of the task force can reach out to other members for input.

IX. COMMUNITY UPDATES

Board members had a round robin to share any announcements from their respective community.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 P.M.