I. Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum, and Roll Call
Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm. Quorum established – voting members present were Nick Williams, Jill van Nortwick, Alexandria Tavarez, Danielle Silva, Andrew Bundy, Susan LaBarge and Clifford Jake. Non-voting members present were Sam Obenshain, Peter Lukes, Quinn Fekete, and Louis Papponi.

Note: Susan LaBarge was able to attain temporary exemption from the PED to allow her to be a voting member since the required PED training is not available in a timely matter.

II. Approval of Minutes: January 15, 2019
Motion to approve minutes from January 15, 2019 meeting; Nick, Clifford seconded. Passed unanimously. Peter requested some clarifications and changes to the New Search Committee section. Minor corrections are part of approval

III. Public Comments
No comments from the public.

IV. Reports
Executive Director's Report (Sam Obenshain)
Sam discussed the new legislature bill to not allow charter approval or renewal of charter schools for a period of three years.
- Sam is requesting that all concerns individuals write, call, e-mail representatives

Sam discussed other bills in the NM legislature that has been approved or possibly passing.
- HB77 limits administrative spending for certain administrative accounts can’t over certain % of budget.
- Number of other bills that are not charter specific but have charter language in them
- Finalized request for capital funding

Sam receives weekly update from a charter school coalition which has a NM legislative bill tracker.

Treasurer’s Report (Nick Williams)
Andrew asked about Fund 23000 Activities and why it’s in the negative. NM State will now allow CCPS to estimate costs for the year, so it always runs in the negative until funds come in from various fund raising or other income sources
- CCPS must budget funds as they are received
- The only fund that’s truly negative is the 23000; the rest are awaiting anticipated funding from the State to cover the negative numbers.

Legislative Update & Impact of APS Tax vote failure – addressed in finance committee section below under Committee Reports
PTO Report (Quinn Fekete)
No report provided, nothing new to discuss

PAC Report (Louis Papponi / Marta)
nothing new to discuss

Cottonwood Classical Foundation Report (Sam Obenshain)
Jill encouraged the GC members to purchase a brick or two for the foundation fundraiser and possibly a GC group purchase of bricks

Faculty and Staff Report (Peter Lukes)
Jill discussed the anti-social behavior increase going on at school.
- It’s really important that the school is safe place for anyone that attends CCPS
- CCPS has brought up the issue in the strategic planning committee to address diversity and inclusion and creating a plan of action.
- Joe Escobido from APS has some tools, resources, and training specifically relating to this topic
- PTO looking at ways to address wellness and mental health aspects to CCPS
- Louis asked Peter about the general feeling from the faculty
  o There’s a consensus that this is an issue from the faculty
  o Faculty may need training on addressing the specific concern as it happens
- Peter will continue to work with the schools’ counselors and wellness team to make progress on the issue.
- Sam is working resolutions to address the emotional support side of the school as opposed to solely academic.
- Multiple activities going on at the school under the umbrella to address
  o It’s important to train all individuals who interact with students know how to address the behavior as it occurs.

Strategic Plan (Andrew / Danielle)
Jill discussed potential grant writing to get grants to funding for CCPS.
- Nick mentioned a student has a parent that handles grant writing.

Facilities Report (Lisa Marbury)
No report provided, nothing new to discuss

ED Outcomes (Clifford Jake)
No report provided, nothing new to discuss

Search Committee (Jill van Nortwick)
See committee report discussion

V. Committee reports
Finance committee
Legislative Update
State has an at-risk factor by district and changing it to by-school which would affect the funding going to CCPS. In the end, we would get more money however it would not be nearly as much as other schools.
State looking at extending the school year – three additional days in the contracts focused on professional development. This may or may not change the current faculty PD work days at CCPS because CCPS already exceeds the minimum required PD days and it will be up to legal interpretation from the state.

Budget Timeline
- April 24th is due-date for GC approved budget be submitted to APS
- Working backwards, Legislative session ends March 19th. Governor has 30 days to veto as she sees fit.
- Spring budget workshop in March
  - Workshop is where finance committees gets all the information to put together new budget format
    - To find out must-pays
  - New formulas will be added from previous budget format
    - Teacher cost index – funding based on teacher levels
    - At-risk formula
  - At the moment, PED is waiting on finals bills to come out so they can interpret the bill language.
  - March 16th is the closest GC meeting time
  - Sam and Mike hoping to have a best-guess budget by the time the budget workshop occurs
- April 1-5 – community meetings week
- April 8-12 – individual budget items discussion
- June 30th is the final PED budget approval deadline

Mike asked if the deadline could be extended and he clarified that it’s highly unlikely unless the state is behind on their deadlines.

Impact of APS vote failure
3 questions on the ballot
1st – General Obligation bonds
  - Issue failed but did not impact CCPS

2nd Senate Bill 9 – mil levy for capital expenditures
  - Failed – CCPS received roughly $140k per fiscal year
  - The tax will expire November 2019 and $140k will no longer be available to CCPS.

3rd – increase House Bill 33 mil levy to a higher amount
  - Failed – means CCPS remains at the current rate
  - We maintain current tax collection until 2021 and will then be re-voted.
  - It’s about $400k+ to CCPS

Debt service requirement means we have to have 1.2 the amount of CCPS’ debts. It will be tight to meet that 1.2 requirement.
- Budget will now be tighter
- APS has indicated they will try to get more funding in November election
- Senate Bill 9 will be gone after November 2019 which will affect at least two budget cycles
  - Potentially have another vote in November 2019
- CCPS needs to work on diversifying revenue stream – specifically through grant
Search Committee
- Have about 4 international candidates
- There is an issue with VISA caps and getting the VISA approved.

HR training will occur on Thursday, Feb 21st. All students, faculty and any other individuals interviewing the candidates must attend the training.

It’s important to prioritize the groups and questioning to limit the amount of interview time for each candidate.
- There will be writing component and is part of the application process

Search team is concerned about the candidates because we’re not getting feedback or responses from candidates who have applied. Deadline for application is March 1st.

VI. Action Items
Approval of BARs
Motion to approve the following BARs as discussed; Nick; Andrew seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- BAR 001-769-1819-016-I $7798 Fund 24106
- BAR 001-769-1819-017-I $1740 Fund 11000
- BAR 001-769-1819-018-I $39,905 Fund 11000
- BAR 001-769-1819-019-I $4409 Fund 23000
- BAR 001-769-1819-020-I $718 Fund 23000
- BAR 001-769-1819-021-I $13121 Fund 23000

VII. New Business
2019 Budget Process
See discussion above in finance committee section above under Committee Reports

Schedule Finance Training for Voting GC Members
Occurring April 20th 9am-12pm

New GC Member discussion and vote – Rathi Casey
This is supposed to be Lisa’s replacement specifically for the facilities planning Jill and Lisa met with Rathi and both support her as the competency replacement

Motion to approve Rathi Casey as a voting GC member, Danielle, Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Unfinished Business
none

IX. Next Governing Council Meeting: Next meeting March 19, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

X. Adjourn
Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:39 pm; Andrew, Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.