

*Hosting luncheons was an idea given to us by Jordan Sperado at the Illinois Policy Institute - they've found these to be very beneficial to gather donors. We invited 60 families, supporters, and potential volunteers to a noon luncheon on March 21, 2017. We held it downtown in a conference room at the Illinois Policy Institute (190 S. LaSalle, Suite 1500). The goal was to create an intimate setting to discuss our model in depth. The event was hosted by Alice Epstein and Heidi Schroeder. We provided water, sandwiches, and chips to the attendees to enjoy during and after our presentation. Two interested community members, Karen Pyne and Donna Rook, came to learn more about volunteer opportunities. Our prospective music teachers, Sheila Fortson, came to learn more about the academic program. Two interested families attended (grandparents included): 1) Stephen Mabry, his wife Sara Beugen, and Sheldon Beugen, Sara's father; 2) Narianno Castillo and her mother Denise Alcantar. The small size allowed for many questions and deep conversation and gave us time to talk through and share the curriculum and model in detail. Emails attached verify their attendance and confirmation.*

*After the guests shared why they were present, what brings them here today, Alice and Heidi tag teamed a presentation that shared our vision, mission, needs, and next steps. The presentation follows.*

*Karen and Donna shared an interest in contributing to the greater cause as Chicago residents that believe in classical education. They have a passion for school of choice and want to see this flourish and available to Chicago families. Both brought with them frustrations about the current state of public education in Chicago. Donna offered her skill set of sales to help with fundraising! Karen is a career teacher and offered her time and experience to the project.*

*Stephen Mabry and his wife Sara Beugen had recently moved from Los Angeles. They had moved into the West Loop for the purpose of sending their children to Skinner West - a classical, select enrollment, public elementary school. They were happy with their school but were intrigued and impassioned with the belief that classical education should be accessible to anyone willing and wanting. They offered to donate their skillset of photography as they are successful and prominent event photographers. Their father, Sheldon, came out of genuine interest in the project and eager to learn more. He is invested into his grandchildren's education and is satisfied with Skinner West. He posed some great questions around fundraising and offered advice on how to tighten and improve our presentation!*

*Narianno Castillo and her mother Denise came in search of a better school option. Narianno is a school teacher and is dissatisfied with the education her children are receiving. They had great insight on other school models and options. They brought personal experiences and concerns. They offered to help with community outreach!*

*Both families have submitted Intent to Enroll forms.*

*See below for confirmations and presentation.*