

**Our Community School  
Board Meeting – April 30, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm.

**Members present:** John Foley, Danielle Quinto, David Marsh, Bill Maxwell, Scott Miller, Jana Harper, Susan Friedman, Katherine Geeslin and Heather Ashton

**Members absent:** Carolina Goodman, Bobbie Blatt

**Non-Voting Members:** Chris Ferris, Principal, and Victoria Camacho, PTSA Chair

**Non-Board Members:** Beth Wolfsbauer, Assistant Principal, and Shelly Silveri, Ex-Ed

No community speakers

All Board members turned in their Conflict of Interest form 700.

**Minutes** were approved as corrected: Last paragraph of the 1<sup>st</sup> page: John Foley moved and Bill Maxwell seconded the motion to approve the loan of \$50,000 from an anonymous source.

**Consent Agenda** (see attached): Bill Maxwell moved to approve, and David Marsh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Nominating Committee:** Scott asked for volunteers: Jana Harper, Scott Miller, David Marsh. Scott will talk to Carolina Goodman about being on the committee. Scott agreed to be act as Chair for the time being.

Scott introduced Victoria Camacho, a new non-voting Board Member. Chris introduced our new Ex-Ed representative, Shelly Silveri.

Danielle Quinto and John Foley will be leaving their position as faculty representative. Scott thanked them for their service to the board. Chris indicated that Hilary Anderson would be interested.

**Finance**

Shelly reviewed both February and March financials. Shelly wants to make sure that we approve the check registers at each meeting. She will also send the financials to Board members via email. We may need a third loan source to help with cash flow, due to the deferred revenue (approx, \$400,000) from the State. CCSA is the potential source for this money, although they will charge 7%, plus fees on any money that we borrow. Shelly suggested a Board resolution that we approve this course of action. Jana Harper

moved to apply for an emergency CCSA loan to the maximum allowed; seconded by Scott Miller. Motion carried. Shelly Silveri reviewed the Financials (attached).

Scott Miller moved to approve the Financials and check register as presented for February and March 2009; seconded by David Marsh and the motion carried.

Shelly Silveri described the Budget Scenarios for 2009-2010, as presented by the Finance Committee (attached). Shelly explained that the Fiscal Stimulus, Fiscal Stabilization, could mean a potential of \$300-400 per student -- based on ADA, but it is unknown at this point. Shelly also explained that it is very likely that we will have mid-year budget cuts during the 09-10 school year. Before discussion ensued, Scott reminded us that we have two responsibilities as Board Members 1) fiduciary responsibility and 2) a high quality educational program. With this in mind Scott asked us to remember our Board norms and to listen respectfully to one another.

A list of pros and cons was created:

#### **Pros**

- option 4, the \$
- potential for more development money from new families that would come from new kinder families.
- long-term financial health of the school
- increase in volunteerism
- 22 students per class is not a breaking point
- more parent volunteers in rooms
- less pressure and anxiety for admin
- can better weather mid-year budget cuts at the higher enrollment
- fiscal responsibility piece very important

#### **Cons**

- higher class size is a sacrifice for kids & teachers
- our current 20:2 ratio works
- higher class size could negatively impact our school program.
- option 1 could be risky to our employees and program in the event of mid-year budget cuts
- options 1 & 3 do not include the recommended 5% budget reserve and may require mid-year budget cuts
- fuzzy middle range of students
- not growing could negatively impact our program

The teacher representatives expressed their concerns about how increasing two classes this year has affected teachers:

- community changes

- small room size
- playground management
- demands on teachers (e.g. writing progress reports)
- parking for teachers

An idea that was put forth was to consider keeping 20 in kindergarten classes and increase class size in 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 22. A concern was raised that adding children who didn't start in kindergarten actually have a harder time adapting.

David Marsh moved that we approve budget scenario #4 for a period of 3 years. Scott Miller seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. In conjunction with this decision it was agreed that an Implementation Task-Force will be formed with the following members (David Marsh, Heather Ashton, Susan Friedman, plus at least 2 teachers TBD) with the charge of dealing with the following:

- Find opportunities to build on (i.e. volunteers, use summer more effectively, clarify parent involvement)
- Create a public relations statement to explain the decision
- Create a logistical process for problem solving
- Create a way to track the success of this decision

David Marsh moved that we freeze salaries for the 09-10 school year; Jana Harper seconded; and the motion passed unanimously.

Currently, the contracted number of days during the year is 194. Student days are 178 days. The difference reflects the days used for classroom set up, professional development, writing of assessments. Scott Miller moved to change the number of contracted days from 194 to 192 during the period that OCS is off our salary scale and carries an increase in class size. In addition, administrators would receive two additional personal days. Heather Ashton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Health Care Benefit and Provider:** Jana Harper moved that we change our health benefit plan beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> to the Health Net Standard Silver HMO 20 plan with the option of a PPO buy up. It is further moved that we rescind the individual employee share but maintain the current dependent and spousal share requirements. David Marsh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Facilities Report** It was agreed to table this discussion for a special meeting of the Board in May.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.