

**Our Community School**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
July 30, 2009

**In attendance:** Scott Miller, Carolina Goodman, Susan Friedman, Bill Maxwell, Hilary Anderson, Ricardo Accorsi, Scott Spooner, Jana Harper, Irina Castillo and David Marsh.  
**Absent:** Heather Ashton

**Non-voting members in attendance:** Victoria Camacho (PTSA), Chris Ferris (principal), Shelly Silveri (ExEd), Carrie Wagner (CEO, ExEd)

6:00pm – Meeting called to order; there were no community speakers.

Scott M. moved and Bill seconded to remove the following two items from the Consent Agenda. Passed unanimously.

- Revised sick-day/vacation-day policy for staff
- New Visions Foundation contract for fundraising support

**Consent Agenda** (See attached for materials.) – Bill moved and Susan seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. Passed unanimously.

- Minutes from June 18, 2009, Board Meeting
- Reschedule June 2010 meeting to June 17 to avoid the last day of school.
- Principal's Evaluation 2008-09
- File for Prop 39 dispute resolution
- Revised OCS employee agreement

Discussion ensued about how teacher comments were selected to include in the Principal's evaluation. Scott explained that the comments were selected to support the evaluation.

- The Governance Committee will give consideration to giving teachers more guidance in completing their principal's evaluation for next year
- An item for the next Board meeting agenda: How does Chris incorporate teacher input in her decision making? How does the Board incorporate input from OCS's constituency in making decisions?

**Board Norms** (See Board Manual.) – Jana reviewed items with Board Members.

- Board Accessibility – Publish names and photos of Board Members in Weekly Packet so that families would be familiar with Board Members.

**Budget Review**

- Reminder: Board Members do not represent individual groups. Board sees to the fiscal needs of the school and sees that the program meets the mission of our

- school. First we are gathering information. Latest data says that we would need to make \$66,000 in cuts.
- Ex Ed report (See attached.) – OCS will probably not be receiving federal stimulus money; the state needs that money to balance its budget. SB 740, about \$100,000, is likely to arrive early in 09-10 SB740; the money is to be used for facilities, not expenses, but could help with cash flow.
  - Looked at Proposed Tiered Budget Cuts (See attached.)
    - Would Tier III be more important to save than Tier II?
    - Do Tier I, II, and III knowing that we will be receiving more cuts.
    - Starting the year with music and tell parents we may have to cut it with more budget cuts; may motivate parents to fundraise.
    - There is a little cushion in building the budget: estimating low fundraising and high expenses.
    - Put noon supervisors together in Tier 1.
  - One of the biggest roles of the Board is to raise money for OCS. State budget cuts should not be solved with school budget cuts only; the Board needs to find ways to augment revenue. Some ideas:
    - partnership with music industry
    - creating a for-profit arm – educational consulting
    - bring in fundraising board members; board members who can donate money
    - Partner with CSUN for more arts
    - Decide on a capital goal
    - Beef up fundraising and grant writing (note: most of the philanthropy is from individuals 80%; grants 20%)
    - Fundraising training
    - Strengthen scrip program
    - Tap community resources
    - Board Retreat on fundraising, Sunday, August 30.
  - Discussion re: cutting music vs. teaching assistants
    - Parent morale and trust would be compromised if school starts without music.
    - The music program contributes more than music education: sense of community and math skills.
    - Teaching assistants ensure that classroom teachers would be able to do a better job of meeting the academic needs of individual students.
    - The music program is a symbol of OCS's commitment to wholistic education.
  - David moved and Scott S. seconded to cut Tier I and Tier II items from the budget. Passed unanimously.
  - Scott S. moved and Bill seconded to postpone cutting Tier III items until the September Board Meeting, after the State announces whether or not it will be cutting more schools funds. Passed 7:2.

- Music Program would start in October if there is enough money in the OCS budget
- Development Committee made the decision NOT to do 5K; we were not able to obtain the \$9000 in sponsorships required to cover the cost of running the event. Instead, we will focus on the Kids Dash pledges and matching grants..

**Facilities** - Bill and Chris met to strategize. If OCS receives Proposition 1D funding (up to \$5 million grant and \$5 million loan), LAUSD may be happy to allow us to use the Devonshire site. LAUSD would own the title and OCS would be responsible for upgrading site. Scott S. moved and Jana seconded to apply for Prop D funding. Passed unanimously.

**Principals Report** (See attached.)

- Benchmarks show growth in all academic areas.
- Our enrollment goal was 276, and we are currently at 275.
- CCSA recommends we turn in our charter renewal on September 15.

**Strategic Plan** – Scott M. moved and Scott S. to postpone this discussion. Passed unanimously.

**OCS Employee Sick-Day/Vacation Policy**

- Chris explained that using eleven months to calculate per diem, rather than ten months, makes it affordable to pay employees in July for unused days.
- Carolina moved and Scott S. seconded to approve the revised policy. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolina Goodman  
Board Secretary