

**OCS Board Meeting
Friday, October 6, 2006**

Meeting called to order by LouisPugliese @ 6:35 PM:

Board Members Present: Louis Pugliese, Jude Stabiler, Jose Parada, Scott Miller, Chris Ferris, Kim Goldstein, Kellie Jackson. Not Present Joel Levitt and Ken Rickerman.

Others Present: Carolina Goodman, John Schlanger, Allen Gewertz and Nikki Maxwell.

Reading/Approval of Minutes (8/17/06) :

As per the August 17th minutes, Jose indicates that Chris has the ability to hire Beth and Alma. The agreement was made by the executive committee.

Louis- "We hire the Principal and then the Principal hires others". " Is this on record?"

Jose- It is not part of the Bylaws. Jude clarifies that after the meeting (8/17), the executive committee decided to make these changes. He though it was a salary setting issue, not a hiring decision issue.

Amendment of Bylaws- Kim offered to open template and edit Bylaws template as needed. Amend minutes that Joel is a (non voting member). Amend that Kellie and Louis are Community Members.

Joel moves to approve minutes, Scott seconds. All in favor.

Louis moves accept Tina's resignation from the board and to establish that there is one teacher with one vote on the board, Joel seconds. All in favor.

Louis moves that we put into the minutes that the board hires and sets salaries for the Principal, and then the Principal hires additional staff, but sets salaries with board consultation. Chris seconds. All in favor.

Discussion with Guests/Potential Board Members:

John Schlanger (address the board)

I have practiced law for over 35 years and is new to the arena of education. I was asked by Jamie Olivas (OCS parent), met with Jose to discuss possibility of joining OCS Board. I think I can assist with minor legal issues, corporate status and such. I'm interested in joining OCS board.

Louis asks about his interest. John says he doesn't know now, but feels he can offer a broader perspective. Louis asks John to provide an educational background. Scott adds, we are a public school. We are looking at what is happening in public education. What can we do to make a difference? Chris indicates that different perspectives are helpful for the school.

Louis asks for John's take. John states he is from the Midwest and attended public schools, went to college at a good school in the Midwest. Went into the military and then law school, also in the Midwest/. State funded law school. Doesn't know what the label for his education would be. Chris asks why he is interested. John indicates that Jamie asked him. He wants to get more involved. At one point he was on a board of another non-profit some years ago.

Carolina (address the board)

She is a product of public education, has worked in independent schools and has recently retired. Carolina knows Chris through diversity and multi-cultural education programming. Chris invited

Carolina and is now surveying to see what she thinks about dedicating (now) free time to volunteer. Has experience with education for 30 years. Has some experience with boards from past school experiences as an administrator. She was worked with accreditation teams over the past few years.

Louis asks about her views of Progressive Education. Speaking to the view of progressive education as not rigorous and outcomes must be measured. Carolina responds that they are not exclusive. People think of progressive education as not rigorous. She mentions how our (OCS) website and it seems to stress the non-academic side. She thinks we should stress the academic part of what we do a little more. Critical thinking is paramount. Route learning is also part of education. It isn't that traditional education is here and progressive is here. There is a lot of progressive thought happening in other environments. She gives an example of how recycling programs can be used to teach academic concepts. She thinks testing is important to have an outside descriptor of the school, not just to indicate one child. It can show some things about a child that might help the teacher.

Chris asks her board interests. Carolina reflects public outreach, looking for grants. Specifies that she is not a fundraiser and does not want to be. Carolina asks about our needs. Scott offers that we are a "young board" in a transitional phase. We are starting to split and develop to have committees, clarify our goals and such. We are looking for diversity of thought. We don't always know what our questions need to be. We are brainstorming that now.

Louis adds that Finance Committee- oversees records and accounting, deficits, over sees that area. We are transitioning from Founding leadership to a new leadership. It's important to look at finances and getting that steady. Prior, the finances were not done collaboratively.

We are just about to peak out of our maximum (enrollment). We anticipate that we will form a waiting list. We are full at K-3. Expansion will be an important consideration. We need to decide what happens next for the growth of the school and to define the limits.

Chris indicates that this year we are promoting that we have open committees. The idea would be that people can participate and then report to the board.

Governance committee wants to create a way for parents to be selected for the board. Carolina asks if elected parents are normal in other environments. Chris reflects that this is a model used elsewhere, but also is a fit for our pedagogy.

Scott indicates that after the board training, we may restructure committees. He notes we have some holes such as with development. Jude indicates that we need to lay foundation for what the board does. We need people with experience that can help the growth areas we wish to see.

Questions from the two candidates

Carolina requests clarification as to time commitment- Louis responds, we meet every six weeks and then we have the occasional flurry of emails. Scott indicates that board members often volunteer for particular areas of interest during meetings as these things come up.

Chris invites the potential board members to a tour. Carolina asks if we have more special needs kids. Scott adds that some kids who come here were lost in other schools. Louis invites the two prospective board members to stay. Scott suggests that they speak with other board members.

Kim reminds us of the Community Discussion on the 19th. This one is focused on Assessment. We will discuss test scores and how things are done here. Many parents don't understand why we do the things we do. They are able to hear more about these issues at meetings.

Aside/general point

Scott asks that we add time to each agenda item. All agree.

Charter School Office Meeting Re-Cap: (5 minutes)

Louis, Beth and Chris went through the over view of the renewal process.

State has a law for 5 years renewal. The Charter Office will give us an extension, even though we need to go through all the same hoops. It is both depressing and optimistic. We will clarify verbal indications from the meeting.

Scott clarifies that we are looking at the three year extension.

Louis clarifies that Andy Johnson suggested that we seek an extension rather than a 5 year renewal. Because there is some negativity about the change over from VCCS to OCS, there is some concern.

Louis says that the Charter Office is asking more about the board.

Kim asks when they decide. Chris thinks it's soon. Scott indicates that we are clarifying what they need. Charter Renewal Committee- Louis thinks we don't need one.

Committee Reports: (10 minutes)

Finance- Kim reports- Chris, Beth, Dina and Stacie met October 4th. Chris update re: lease and grant updates. Tracie working on corporate sponsors Cash reserves should be 3-4% of total budget, discussed teacher pay scale. They are plugging in information about teachers to see their relative pay scale in other environments. Funding priorities identified - computers and staff development.

Scott asks about the issue of more direct funding support from PTSA. Chris states that response has not been positive. Chris shows the Blue Palm information. The grant funds in this school year. Chris indicates that the integrated approach they use is a great match for us. One thing we heard at PTSA is that parents are prioritizing arts funding.

Marketing- PR week LA Opinion on Tuesday, on the front page and page 10, the article is about Charter Schools in LA. We had PBS documentary here Weds. They will make a short film for our website. Thursday we had Daily News here taking pictures for a story of charter school with parents involved. Chris will do phone interview for print next week. Yesterday got the call from CCSA for us to be part of the MY School state campaign. We need quotes from everyone. "OCS is My School because _____." We are one of a handful of schools and the youngest entity. It's free!

Governance - We want to add more parent members. We need a nomination system. We have charged the PTSA to explore what they might do to help with the outreach for the nominating process. It seems that PTSA is not comfortable with that role. Allen clarifies that they (PTSA) does not see how to facilitate the whole parent body. Louis agrees... PTSA may not be able to carry this out. The school will have to take lead and put it out to the parent community. The original idea was for the PTSA to identify a point person to take lead in organizing the process. As we went through the transition they made it clear that did not want to see it continue to be self-selecting body. We were a self-selecting body. We want to transition to a membership of classes. Election

by the parents for the parents needs to be open and fair for the entire community to participate. We need to put it out at the next community meeting, on Oct. 19th.

Enrollment and Back to School Night Update: (5 minutes)

Chris reports most need is in 4th through 6th grade. We are down about 10 children from the overall target. Not many have left. All that showed have stuck around.

Back 2 School: Kellie: good turn out. Very exciting... K-classes low turnout... every other room had good turn out. Kellie and Chris went around to all rooms and introduced the process of the board. Community meeting will address assessment and testing in a progressive school. Many parents still have questions how we assess children and meet the standardized testing going on in education.

School Safety:

Chris questions because of recent events in the news...JPA a risk management person ... assessed the site. Fire alarm, buzzer at front gate needs to get it to work. Fire drills, lockdown practice...

Board goes into closed session:

Re-Open Meeting and Adjournment:

Return from closed session.

No other items to discuss

Jose moves to adjourn, Louis seconds...all in favor

Next Meeting: Saturday, December 2, 2006 @8:30AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jose Parada, Secretary