

OCS Board Meeting
Saturday, December 2, 2006

Meeting called to Order by Kellie Jackson @ 8:30 AM:

Board members Present: Louis Pugliese, Kellie Jackson, Scott Miller, Jose Parada, Ken Rickerman, Joel Levitt, Jude Stabler, Carolina Goodman, , Chris Ferris (Principal via conference call).

Others Present: Melina Garda (parent), Beth Wolfbauer (Assistant Principal), Nikki Maxwell (Community Resources Coordinator/parent) and Sandro Lanni (Charter Schools Management Company).

Brief Discussion regarding Sandro Lanni (Present):

We need to seek clarification regarding budget and his services. There is concern as to how he and his staff operate with us. i.e. communication with school staff and accuracy of reports.

Community Speakers:

Louis asks Melina Garda, parent in attendance, if she would like to speak. She indicated that she is here to observe and learn about process.

At 10:30, all agree to allow Melina to speak out of order of the agenda. Melina expresses how she wants to encourage transparency. She indicates the community building needs of the school currently and would like to see the board tell its story better to the community. Chris adds that she is interested in getting the minutes and agendas onto the website. One of the community discussions at the end of school year is the OCS board report. This will continue to be an annual event.

Motion and vote for installation of Carolina Goodman: (8:50)

Scott Miller makes a Motion to install Carolina Goodman as a board member, Chris Ferris seconds, all in favor.

Discussion with Sandro Lanni, Charter Schools Management Company: (8:55)

Implementation Grant funds will start in January with the balance into the second year. We'll get about \$210,000 now and then another allocation in Fall-2007 with the remaining \$15k in Spring-2008.

After care- 65% of funds will be available in June if we receive the after school block grant

Implementation Grant- Some in January, Balance of \$210,000 toward the end of the year, notice of award is sent, we return it and accept the terms. Requirements are pretty flexible. You don't need invoices- the report is fairly simple. The allocation in spring and then another in August, we would report detailing how we have and will spend funds. **Final report in spring of 2008; must be closed November 2008.**

Beth asks to clarify STRS information- LACOE funds are included? No, Sandro clarifies, that is indicated elsewhere.

Jude asks for SB740- ADA based, 55% of allocation Funds are not guaranteed. They will arrive in January.

Sandro is asked about entitlement \$192,000 was given to schools. County sees it as an advance payment. Beth points out that Lorena called about the cash and understood that we would not use the funds. Lorena seemed concerned and so this caused concern for Beth.

Kellie asks to see the due process case information – Chris says it shows in a few places. We just paid a specific amount for services last year. Now the family has an opportunity to bill us for the agreed amount on a quarterly basis. (The details of this case are confidential.)

Carolina asks Sandro about the recommendation for savings. Sandro indicates that 5% of operating income. Sandro suggests targeting 7-8%. **The biggest issue that causes problems in growth is the gap.** Sandro suggests that January would be a great time to set up accounts for reserves.

Scott asks to discuss bottom line. We have about \$300,000 left, but Chris notes that we do not yet have projected expenses from Implementation grant. Sandro suggests that we don't have a lot of requirements on spending.

Sandro suggests that, with 6 months to spend, spending half the allocation- about \$110,000 We might want to wait for next year to really spend the money well. Chris wants to spend some of staff development, curriculum. Many of these funds would actually be spent next year.

Scott asks about next year spending- Chris indicates that we would order in the summer. Teachers are now starting to discuss needs as well as looking at the math program.

Ken asks about, when will the ADA balance? Sandro's conservative estimate is about 35% apportionment and it will happen in spring.

The proposal is for 10% allocation for reserves this year and then we can reconsider each year.

A committee needs to look at a Strategic Plan. There is concern that allocating these funds without a plan is not responsible. Chris clarifies that we need an emergency fund.

Chris discusses that we do not have mechanisms for how we spend money as a school.

Louis asks us to look ahead at two years from now. We need to begin with the end in mind.

Kellie asks if anyone has issues voting on the reserves. Nobody states any issues.

Scott asks when we should start to predict next year's budget. Sandro suggests that this process would begin in January. The budget should be approved by June to make provisions for the start of the fiscal year. Sandro indicates approximately a 3% increase to ADA rates can be anticipated.

Jude asks Sandro what we can do as a school and board that will make things better. He spoke to the communications issues. He indicates that the board will turn more big picture and fundraising. Beth adds that regular reports work very well. Chris adds she hopes that Lorena's information will match Sandro's better. There were some glitches to work out about what things mean and getting the budget lined up. Chris would like Sandro to attend a few board meetings each year. Chris will give the budget to the finance committee and others who would like to see it.

Reading/Approval of minutes:

Louis motions to approve minutes; reviewed individually with no discussion

Committee Reports:

Governance Committee is still working out how parents become board members. Also looking at how board members are elected. Louis indicates that there are some very specific guidelines for public non profit entities. We are self electing here.

The board is looking for the parents to organize that nominating model for parents. Scott asks for help in directing outreach.

Facilities – Need to expand and/or change site: We need to consider negotiation of lease, time frame and relationship with current property managers (Church). Chris and Nikki discuss a site located in the Northridge (Corbin @ Chatsworth) and the opportunity to move forward with prop 39. There is a need to research demographics of the possible area/location and parent satisfaction need to be researched for current site. All present are in favor to proceed with this plan.

Board Training Session- Debrief

Jose- Budget issues noting that we have been doing some things right.

Louis- felt validated about our course and that we have showed faith in management

Chris- impressed with level of commitment. Gleaned that the board should be a long range fundraising body. The board should try and save and the principal should push to spend. Wants attention to long term planning

Kelie- the training helped understand the roles and responsibilities of the vision for the board in both short and long term

Jude- Also attended the summer conference. He feels the roles were reiterated. Also agrees that we need to do long term planning and fundraising work.

Joel- pass

Ken- Reiteration of the “One Voice” component. We all support that majority vote which is the heart and soul of our working together and being effective.

Carolina- Has many questions.... Do we have a board manual? Liked the tools provided at conference.

Scott- realized that the Founding Board was so great. As a board, this group exceeded the expectations. He also adds that it’s important that the board knows they are accountable *to* the school and not particular groups.

Peter can attend a board meeting for further information. The board indicates that they would like to get Peter involved in Strategic Planning. All present agree that some time needs to be set aside to use some tools. What do we want from our committees? Long term plans? The board’s job is to the school, they are not representatives of groups. This is an argument to keep the self appointed board. The suggestion would be that we add in two elected positions without votes- parent (other than the PTSA president) and a teacher.

Fundraising – School vs. PTSA – Scott Miller

Peter’s indication is that we want to look at using our parent resource for fundraising. Capital Campaign and the need for a fundraising committee.

Other Issues:

We need someone to take on re-writing the board manual.

Ken suggested that we have a new committee structure in January.

February meeting – “Get involved night”. Community Meeting February
Learn and Share and Get Involved Night

Carolina suggests getting a phone tree started.

Research the type of accounts needed for cash reserves...

Adjournment:

Carolina moves to adjourn at 11:45, Joel seconds, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jose Parada, Secretary