

OCS Board Meeting
Monday, January 15, 2007

Board Members Present: Scott Miller, Louis Pugliese, Kim Goldstein, Kellie Jackson, Jose Parada, Carolina Goodman, Ken Rickerman, Chris Ferris

Board Member Not Present: Jude Stabler

Others present: Nikki Maxwell, Beth Wolfbauer, Allen Gewertz

1. Call to Order: by Kellie Jackson @6:33PM

2. Reading/Approval of minutes:

All present review minutes, point out minor changes/typo. Scott motions to approve, Louis seconds, all in favor.

3. Community Speakers:

Kellie Jackson (Co-Chair) reviews community member speaking process

Allen Gewertz (Parent) expresses an issue from the minutes. The board addresses Mr.Gewertz and clarifies issue.

4. Explanation of transfer of Directors: Chris presents a legal letter drafted and signed by Sandro Lanni (CSMC) indicating transfer of Directorship. This document appoints this body as Incorporation Directors.

We are asked for our CEO and need to see which positions we want/need for legal purposes. Chris indicates that these documents, which impact our NPO status, needs a CEO (Chairman of the Board- Kellie), CFO (Louis) and Secretary (Jose), form is signed by all three.

Carolina motions to accept these documents, Ken seconds- all those agreed- all in favor

5. Approval of documents for non-profit incorporation:

Bylaws will be distributed by e-mail to all members, need to review prior to the next meeting. Kellie confirms that all in attendance understand.

Carolina asks about the terms for the board. She recommends three-year term instead of two-year term. Louis suggests that Governance can discuss.

6. Reading of the Mission Statement:

Chris presents the OCS Mission Statement, requests from board to reflect on the Mission that the staff created together this past summer. The mission statement needs to reflect what it means to be OCS...we need to look at how the school addresses the local community. Beth adds that we need to consider location of our site. Be it our current location and/or a new one. Ken voices a concern that if we move west, we may have to change our intention in order to keep up with other local schools. Our search for a site should be directed by our vision for the school.

7. Committee Reports:

Finance (5 minutes) – Beth reports that we are not far away from LAUSD pay scale for teachers.

Educational units and experience cause a gap between LAUSD's current pay scale and us.

There is not a lot of difference other than a few teachers. We have one teacher we pay more. LAUSD seems to reward units more than just experience in the role. The school may be able to develop our own workshops for professional development that we can accept as an educational point/unit.

The committee recommends that we should match LAUSD 2006/2007 scale for next year (2007/2008). The board request reports before we vote. We need to look at the budget for next year. Louis suggests that the committee factors in a 5% increase and see if the budget can justify it. The budget alone can not justify it, the board needs to set the goal and commitment for fundraising and we all need to make it happen. The board requests the committee to review further.

Chris distributes the “Actuals” budget, which we need to review prior to next meetings.

Governance (5 minutes)

Louis reflects that we are a public benefit organization. We have a few issues. No particular group in our school can have membership (we are a self-electing board). We discussed that all of our board members could become “at large” members to avoid problems. There is a legal concern about “interested parties” serving on boards.

The proposal is to have 5-13 at large members. The PTSA president would not automatically have a seat. There will be 3 parent seats available. The teacher seat remains. The only non-voting member would be the Principal. Ken clarifies that the PTSA president is a non-voting member (prior to these Bylaws).

Much discussion followed, indicating areas of concern.

Vote 1. We will have 5-13 board appointed, at-large members. This will be reflected in the Bylaws. Carolina motions to approve. Scott seconds, all in favor.

Motion #2 (tabled): There is no longer an automatic PTSA president position on the board. Positions are all board appointed, at large.

It will be an open seat and Joel will be “grandfathered in” but as a non-voting member for the remainder of his term. Louis motions that we put this issue on hold and discuss more at the governance committee. All agree to have PTSA-President continuing as a non-voting member.

Louis recognizes Allen Gewertz (Parent) and he says that the circumstances of the PTSA president may be different. He feels the PTSA president should not be required to attend/be on the board automatically.

Marketing/Development (5 minutes)

Carolina reflects that we are looking to establish who we are as a community. Who we are, what we do different. It’s suggested that we tap into the idea of how we are developing Leadership skills.

“Annual-Giving Campaign” This should be our major fundraiser. Kim will provide a sample letter how Chime asks from their parents.

Personnel (5 minutes)

Jose presents, committee is currently reviewing teacher contracts, considering the need to change the “at will” language.

Teacher and Staff handbooks, we will ask staff to review and provide input possibly at next staff meeting. The committee also discussed Professional Development funds, regarding language of availability of funds. They also want to look at the language around stipends for special additional roles.

The committee feels that we offer a lot of development and so they are not sure how to proceed. There could be an allocation for additional development or specific classes. There is no recommendation at this time. This is another budget issue. The committee plans state specific roles/needs where stipend can be used.

Renewal (5 minutes)

Chris indicates that we have the Charter review meeting this Friday. There is no board representation needed. We got a binder from Sandro's office last week and Sandro will be here himself for the meeting. We have been working hard to prepare for this meeting. Alma and Beth are working on safety issues and getting things organized. On January 23rd, two schools will go up before LAUSD school board. There is concern over the questions that have been raised by the new superintendent. The schools are asking for Charter School support at this meeting. Stephanie is positive, but we are still not relaxed about it. Ken verifies that we have positive reports in writing and Chris affirms that this is true.

8. Principal's Report:

Kelly, Louis and Chris drafted a letter to Sandro Lanni (CSMC) after Ken's call to him. We have not heard anything specific from him regarding receipt of this letter. He seems to be working harder recently, he's being more proactive.

Our "Actuals" budget seems to indicate that we have borrowed 30k from his company and this data does not match past data. Chris is concerned about his lack of communication about loaning us money without telling us. Chris asks that the board be part of helping to choose another service provider.

Benchmark assessments. So far, mixed reviews. Parent reviews are mixed. Teachers are using them to help look at the class as a whole and if the test measures what we want to see data about. There is a lot of discussion. Second grade teachers indicate that the test scores do seem to reflect what is happening in their class. There is an intervention plan in place now to take out a group of children to help the situation. Tina will try a new language arts program. Pegasus works once they know how to read but perhaps doesn't work as well in the critical learning to read part. Hillary will proceed with Pegasus. K and 1st this year have more writing and phonics than previous year. Those classes are demonstrating grade level or above on the benchmarks.

Chris shares the CFG in practice related to the second grade skill gap. The system worked well to foster communication and collaboration when there was an issue. Teachers felt supported and it alleviated some of the issues.

9. Formation of new committee- Facilities Committee:

Committee will look at the short term or long term lease. Carolina volunteers, Allen Gwertz volunteers, Louis volunteers to chair this committee, Chris will provide information and suggests to add Beth since she mainly deals with our current landlord.

10. Review of board and committee goals for balance of 2006-2007 school year:

There is a need to meet specifically to go over the tools we learned about our board training. Carolina and Chris propose that parents would also like more information about committees, this can be addressed at the next community discussion on 2/15/07.

Board schedules mini retreat is for Saturday, February 10, 2007 1-5PM. We will announce it to community.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:45

Respectfully Submitted,

Jose Parada, Secretary