

OCS Board Meeting Minutes Saturday May 5, 2007

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

Others Present: Alan Gewertz, Nikki Maxwell (note taker), Beth Wolfsbauer

1. Called to order: by Louis Pugliese @ 8:40a.m.

Submits plan to review minutes at end of meeting. Board accepts via verbal consensus agreement.

2. Community Speakers

None

3. Principal's report

Special Education and District Communications- Louis and Chris met with LAUSD regarding liability and the language in our agreement. There was verbal agreement for full liability protection, but the written agreement we reviewed seems less favorable. We submitted new language after consulting with lawyer. The LAUSD rep (Susan) called very concerned about our use of the lawyer. She was also concerned that we copied the Charter Office. Chris stated that we did want to work with them, but details seem unclear. Chris spoke with Stephanie and she drafted a letter (to help pressure the LAUSD people to respond to us) with a deadline of Monday for our Special Education language in our Charter renewal meeting. Our actual due date is May 11th. There is mention about how we are a test case for Charters working this system with LAUSD Special Ed and what we do does set precedence. Board members reflect that our relationship with this Special Education office will be long term and we want it to proceed well. Chris reflects that LAUSD approached us and wants this program to work. Ken discusses that LAUSD needs a call to action and the letter sent by Stephanie might not have been the best approach, with the deadline seeming to pressure us rather than LAUSD Special Ed. Scott suggests that we sit down in person with the stakeholders involved and try and work it through as an aspect of relationship building. Ken suggests we can put the Board up as the "bad guys" in this scenario. Chris will send Susan an email and suggest a meeting.

Retention: Chris relates that the school may retain a fairly large number of second grade students this year. About six or seven students are being recommended for holding back. Our line of thinking is to foster student success. Carolina asks what happened. Several board members ask "How many were in 1st and how many K/1?" Beth and Chris relate that most were in the Straight 1 class. Because of the standards, we don't want to cause stress on these kids by pushing them. These students do not have IEP's. We might evaluate them later. Some of the kids are facing personal challenges at home which might influence them. But we want our message to be that we won't let kids fall through a crack. We want the kids to switch teachers, as evidence shows higher degrees of success than keeping the same teacher/experience. Scott reflects that this is the right timing to keep them back rather than later. Chris wanted the board to be informed. She does not believe this will happen in the future. Our teachers are adapting and our community is stabilizing.

Ken notes a few emails that went around discussing standards and examples of work. You can see the difference between the first graders this year and the group from last year. Beth and Staci are coming up with a quality summer program to help supplement.

We also can move the kids up more easily in the future than trying to keep them back later. Chris notes that the benchmark assessments have been stronger this year and that this data helps the teachers. We have a lot more systems this year.

New Teacher Search

The hiring committee has a candidate for our new teacher (Suzanne Ohanian). The committee believes she will accept the job. Chris reflects that her sample lesson with Hillary's class was great. She was calm and moving things along. Chris will call to offer the position.

Proposal for teacher structure based on this candidate:

Hillary in 2nd

Vanessa G 2/3 split with strong full time assistant

Suzanne in straight 3

All other teachers stay the same

Truancy- report based on last month's concerns

Beth reports improvement. Beth suggests automatic retentions for anyone with over 25 absences. We have 2 students who would fall into this category. One probably would have been retained for academic reasons.

Calendar for 2007-2008 approval

- Dates stay similar to this year
- New: Rosh Hashanah off (this is the holiday that falls on a school day)
- Shorter spring break
- Staff felt not everyone has to go to CCSA
- April 2 days off- Open Charter Institute was deemed very important by teachers and they propose to close the school to attend these events (which are FREE and close by).
- Staff discussed starting earlier to help give more time with classes prior to testing. This year, that notion competes with our "All Kinds of Minds" training in August. We want to keep it in mind for the future.
- 2 full weeks of training are proposed this year for teachers
- Board doesn't need to accept all the event dates like Spring Faire, those may still be in process.

Motion by Carolina to accept Calendar as proposed; Kim seconds the motion, all in favor.

4. Committee Reports

Development Committee- Carolina Chair

- Carolina presents her research on the fundraising patterns and hands out information
- Recommends against Box Tops program
- Carolina thinks the family nights at restaurants can be a good idea, but is distressed that two restaurants did not send the funds promised. Carolina proposes a contract with these restaurants when we do these events. It's reported that Beth usually provides a signed W9 for the events.
- There is concern that most of the events are Friend Raisers

Scott reflects that Foundations School does 4 fundraising activities: 2 events, Script and Annual Giving. Chris reflects that we want to remove the burden on the field trip classes and in doing so will help this problem. Carolina proposes that we have a line item for field trips in our budget as would the PTSA. Carolina also notes that we are data collecting and reporting at this time, trying to make recommendations.

Annual giving

So far- \$900 from 10 people. So, good start!

Carolina recommends that we be able to say 100% of the board donated, as well as faculty/staff. This helps stimulate donations. Carolina asks the board to give something to the Campaign.

Birthday/Blue Palm

Committee suggests that we stress the Birthday component more than the Blue Palm aspect.

Facilities Committee- Louis chair

Ken reflects the meeting regarding the cell phone tower. It went well and the appeal went through, blocking the tower. The church stands to have a \$15,000 annual loss. The board recognizes Claudine Williams (parent) for taking the lead on this issue. Waiting on attorney for lease format; Chris informs board that attorney recommends we wait to send in new lease until closer to the lease date.

At 10:00, Louis recommends limiting remaining reports to 10 minutes each

Finance Committee

Beth hands out documents detailing the financial ramifications of adopting the LAUSD pay scale. These numbers include the proposed hire. Board reviews packet of information and discusses. NCLB changes some structures from people have seen before.

Louis reflects that we should not be taking this long during reports. This length or review should be an agenda item.

Carolina seeks to verify- We want to adopt the LAUSD scale but we do not want points. She sees that our strategy seems to be to pay well and honor our teachers more for experience here at OCS.

A discussion ensues about particulars on proposed...

Chris suggests that we say “for participating in our school and doing our developmental activities, you get salary points for time spent at OCS rather than at other types of professional development.

Louis- Implementation of compensation system? Voting on? What we promise teachers? Not to clear at this time, careful about how salary points are measured...

The second paragraph is the hold up, questions is what we do as salary points, 2 courses plus 2. The compensation for teachers, salary point question is tricky, salary points?

Louis is concerned that we can not set up a system where it will affect the long range planning and a system that will allow employees to comeback and question the salary scales.

Annual contracts are going to be difficult to sign if teachers are not being given pay scale range. The committee has been looking at the wrong schedule (L). The right pay scale to look at is (T). Chris goes on-line to retrieve schedule T. All agree to resume Finance Committee discussion after right scale is obtained.

Program Committee:

Chris presents- see report attached...

Adopt small classroom size since we bill ourselves as a school with smaller classroom than LAUSD.

Motion for resolution- questions about ADA

See two handouts. And article from newspaper

Governance Committee:

Scott addresses procedures how to flow through the board meeting.

Nomination committee needs to be created to streamline procedures for board appointment. Package put together and distributed to potential candidates. Call each potential candidate, meet, obtain background from candidate interview them and the nominating committee would have someone to nominate, Scott to

e-mail procedures, we need to establish committee. Motion to form nominating committee, Carolina, Scott and Kelly...Scott motions, Kim seconds, all in favor.

Committee report templates:

See handouts, will be posted on p-wiki website.

Louis addresses issues about using the p-wiki site.

Back-Office Provider:

Interviews were held for Ex-Ed and Ed-Tech, our current back office provider (CSMC) was asked if committed, responded positively but addressed concerns.

Ed-Tech is located in the bay area concerns about distance and possibly lack of relationship with LAUSD.

Currently Ex-Ed may be the best choice given our needs at this particular time. Their annual fee is \$45,000.00; they are located in Santa Monica. They can provide training to school staff on how to communicate and transfer information with one another, have a relationship with LAUSD and will liaison more with the district in terms of prop 39 and negotiations of facilities and more detailed reports on budgets and expenditures. Ex-Ed would help us if we got into a financial crunch; Ex-Ed would also look into alternatives and would help to plan more for the long range to try to prevent problems.

Scott motions that we contract Ex-Ed as our back-office provider, Kim seconds all in favor.

This becomes effective July 1, 2007. Thank you letter to Sandro's company (CSMC), letters to ed-tech and ex-ed.

General Discussion:

May 17th, Board Presentation to the community:

Inform community about our goals and successes we've had this year.

Next meeting will be Saturday June 16 @ 8:30 AM

The July 19th meeting Board meeting is going to be the Annual meeting 5:30PM.

Resume finance committee discussion:

Scale presented with the (T)

For unit earned merits one salary point.

Scott moves to adopt the 05/06 schedule (T) and (L) salary scale from LAUSD for the 07/08 fiscal year.

We'll continue the scale with an increase of 2% per year for three additional years. Chris and Jude abstain from voting on this item. Ken Seconds, all in favor.

Review of Minutes:

Minor changes made.

Louis moves to approve minutes, ken seconds, all in favor.

Joel motions to adjourn Scott seconds, all in favor.

Meeting Adjourned @ 1:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jose Parada, Secretary