

Our Community School
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2008

Board members present: Chris Ferris, Ken Rickerman, Scott Miller, Carolina Goodman, Katherine Geeslin, John Foley, Al Erdynast, Kellie Jackson, Louis Pugliese

Non-members present: Valerie Davis (note taker), Jose Parada (parent), Laura Bauer (EdEx, back-office provider)

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Kellie Jackson at 6:41pm.

Community Speakers: With respect to Strategic Planning Jose Parada suggested the Board consider the role of consumers and what it takes to sell the school.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as corrected.

Facilities Committee Report: Our landlord reneged on their offer to remodel the Ranch House to include classrooms and will not allow us to install portable classrooms. The Facilities Committee will ask if we can rent two classrooms next year. LAUSD will be making portable classrooms available in June. OCS is a likely recipient. It would take approximately \$100,000 to site the portables and bathroom. LAUSD also has empty campuses, which would need retrofitting. OCS would only be a candidate if we could partner with another school to make use of the whole facility. Katherine moved to apply for Incentive Funds for construction. John seconded. OCS would be eligible for \$200,000 each year for three years. The motioned passed.

Finance Committee: (see ExEd's "Notes to Financials") March was a positive month. Cash balances improved, expenses remain below budget, as well as attendance returning to expected levels. Note: absences impact the budget negatively. The after-school program continues to do better than expected. OCS has not had to access the line of credit. We will end the year with the recommended 5% in reserve to begin the next school year. Anticipating atate budget cuts, OCS has prepared a 2008-09 budget 3% less than last year's, impacting professional development, arts program, and development/marketing consultants. Carolina is attending a week-long grant writing seminar in July. Teachers will participate in a grant writing workshop at the beginning of the next school year. New rules will be written to clarify that funds raised for fieldtrips are for students only; parent chaperones must pay their own expenses.

Development Committee: Annual Giving donations continue to come in; the current total is about \$8,600. Next year's campaign will begin right away in September, with no otgher solicitation until a reminder in December. We will be

publishing an Annual Report to distribute to everyone at OCS, as well as to potential funders. The Mid-Valley 5K October 4 event is coming together. The North Valley West Neighborhood Council will be a sponsor at the \$1000 level. In a postcard mailing, we will be reaching out to local businesses for other sponsors. Check with auditor about the percentage of their sponsorship is tax deductible. The City of Los Angeles requires that we notify neighbors along the 5K route. Board Members and other volunteers should try to attend other 5K events to see how they are organized: Chamber of Commerce on June 1 or CBS in Studio City in September. We will be inviting other North Hills schools to use our event for their own fundraising. We expect 300- 500 runners and walkers at our event. Nikki is currently working on grants for arts, character development, professional development, health/safety, and infrastructure items. The Development Committee brainstormed non-fundraising events for community “friendraising.” Al wants the board to consider describing OCS as free public education, when there is the expectation that families will donate significantly.

Governance Committee – Defined a method and created tools for our Principal Evaluation. Scott Miller moved to approve the process. Carolina seconded. The motion passed. The Governance Committee has been working with Scott Spooner on Strategic Planning. A draft of the OCS mission statement has been proposed, and the process of defining the school’s vision has begun. The Nominating Committee needs to reconvene to seek new Board members with expertise in diverse areas, e.g. law, finance, real estate, building design and construction.

Principal’s Report – Chris discussed the results of the online surveys. Nikki prepared a written summary. (See attached.) We had a good response. Approximately 50%. The second trimester benchmarks improved over first trimester scores. Currently 80% of OCS students are proficient in math, 70% proficient in language arts, 68% proficient in writing. We expect our API score to remain strong.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolina Goodman