

Academie Lafayette Board Meeting
September 14, 2009

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Dave Cozad, President
Mike Zeller, Vice President
Dr. Stephen Green
Pam Gard
Jane Alley
Melissa Thomas

Board Members Absent:

Kirk Farmer
Herb Hardwick
Harriet Charno
Brian Hendrickson
Dr. Anthony Moore

Meeting Opened

Dave Cozad, extended a welcome to all stakeholders present. He also thanked everyone for his or her participation in the 10-year anniversary celebration, especially thanking Rachael Gordon for her coordination of the event. He then asked for comments from stakeholders.

Comments from Stakeholders

- Amy Meya stated that she sent an e-mail out to some of the current parents regarding continuation of the program into high school. She mentioned that 50 families replied with interest in the school doing opening a high school. Discussion followed and Jane Alley mentioned that the school currently has many items on their agenda and this would be a concern. Dr. Green mentioned that adding a high school would be a tremendous undertaking and should be explored extensively. Mrs. Meya added that she and the other parents were willing to assist as needed and asked if a group of parents could continue discussion of this matter and if the school would be available for their meetings and the response was yes.

The question was raised as to whether or not the high school would carry on the French immersion program or not and the response was that it would be discussed in terms of the focus of a high school.

The plan will be that the interested parents will meet in the library to discuss this and Jane Alley suggested that a person with high school expertise be involved in the meetings.

6th Grade Trip Discussion

Mary Lou Martin discussed some concerns regarding the trip that had been expressed to her by parents. She indicated that there is not enough communication pertaining to dates, amounts, etc. given to parents. She continued to discuss the Musketeer Fund, which is where the fundraising monies are deposited and how she understands that it is used. She recommended that funds raised for the trip from specific fundraisers be given to parents involved in the fundraisers. Discussion followed.

Dave Cozad stated that he had sent a proposal regarding how the fundraisers could be distributed as follows:

- Trash bag sale proceeds will be devoted entirely to the 6th grade trip to France.
- Trash bag sale proceeds will be used for three purposes, in the following order: 1) need-based scholarships; 2) payment of chaperone expenses; 3) any leftover monies will be placed into a reserve fund for next year's 6th grade France trip.
- Revenues from other fundraising activities conducted by 6th graders and/or their families will be accounted for separately and will be divided equally to defray the cost for all students traveling that year.
- The school will maintain a clear accounting of all fundraising revenues and trip expenditures, and this accounting will be available upon request for parents to review.

He then read the trip policy adopted in 2007, and discussion followed. Eric Nelis then

Eric Nelis then discussed how the actual spending was distributed.

Mike Zeller suggested that the remaining trash bag funds be spent on needed scholarships and half of the balance distributed to parents and half into the Musketeer fund. Discussion continued. A motion was made regarding the proposal submitted by Dave Cozad.

Motion

Pam Gard moved to accept Dave Cozad's proposal. Jane Alley seconded.

Discussion

Mike Zeller indicated that he would rather split the fundraising money. Dr. Green suggested that a thorough analysis be completed of the funds before it is determined how the balance of the funds would be distributed.

Motion carried.

Mike Zeller suggested that a manual be prepared and given to parents in possibly 5th grade that totally explains the trip with regards to fundraising, payments, scholarships, etc.

Parent Association Report – Maria Dix

- Parent Assn. meeting is on Thurs., Sept. 17, @ 7:00 pm. She asked for assistance from 8th grade students and parents for babysitting during the meeting
- Board will announce Parent elect board position vacancy at the meeting
- Budget will be presented for approval
- Mr. Fall will discuss soccer and other athletics
- Boo bayou – Bar B-Q businesses are being checked into with plans to possibly make this year's event a Bar B-Q Bayou
- Discuss the possibility of reducing handouts at PA meetings and use e-mails instead. Maria mentioned that many are opposed to that due to the fact that not all parents have access to e-mails, etc.

Teacher Evaluation Policy – Eric Nelis

Eric Nelis presented the current and proposed personnel performance evaluations. He then mentioned that he would like to discuss it with teachers before it is finalized and Dr Green also suggested that the discussion be held with the teachers prior to implementing the policy. Discussion followed regarding the recommended procedure for evaluations, i.e. annually, every 3 years, etc. Discussion held regarding how evaluations are conducted. It was then stated that ongoing evaluations do occur.

Also, it was mentioned that some criteria be set for the evaluation process. Eric mentioned that he is still working on the tools for the evaluation. The final comment is that Eric Nelis will be taking the proposed policy to the teachers for their comments, etc. and Dr. Green and Melissa Thomas agreed to share information with Eric regarding teacher evaluations.

Grant/Fundraising Report – Rachael Gordon

(copy attached)

Rachael informed the group that goals for next year have been set. She also mentioned that more staff is contributing to the annual fund.

It was asked if we are working on any grants for this year and Rachael mentioned that some small grants are being looked at such as fruit cart, field trips, etc. and that teachers are working on those grants. The question was raised as to what we would be doing with regard to fundraising for this year and Rachael mentioned that this is a decision that needs to be made.

Mike Zeller asked what is needed from the board and she mentioned that they could determine the goal amount and what programs need to be funded.

The question of how the relationships with foundations are established and sought after was raised and Rachael mentioned that prior board members established some. Also, discussion regarding money being requested and the needs was discussed and it was suggested that this be determined before funders/foundations are approached.

Mike then recommended that we have a Development Committee and discussion on this be tabled until the Sept. 28th meeting.

Academic Report – Eric Nelis

French materials are being purchased and teachers are assisting in this effort. Professional development goals will be set and discussed with teachers. Discussion.

Kindergarten open house was held this evening.

Dave Cozad asked how the new kindergarten campus is going and the response was that it is going well.

Jean Claude Diatta then interjected expressing his concern about the school continuing to focus on immersion, which is relevant to differentiation.

Decision regarding the number of kindergarten students to be accepted for year 2010-2011 was brought up by Dave Cozad. He mentioned that UCM would need to be notified of the board's decision and also posted on the website.

Motion

Jane Alley moved to keep kindergarten enrollment at 85 students. Dr. Green seconded.

Discussion

The reasons the enrollment was set at 85 were discussed. Jane Alley indicated that until we know what the school's resources will be in the future, we should not enroll more than the 85 kindergartners.

Motion unanimously approved.

Diversity Task Force – Pam Gard

Pam mentioned that Dave Cozad and Mike Zeller had developed a "Diversity Vision Statement". She then asked if it needed to be approved by the board and Dave Cozad suggested e-mailing it to the entire board for review and approval.

Pam then stated that below are the Diversity Task Force's recommendations:

- Stan Johnson and Assoc. to direct Focus Group, assist the Principal and the Diversity Task Force in implementation of a comprehensive diversity plan.
- Support community awareness of the school's commitment to diversity.
- Revise the logo design.
- Establish a relationship with pre-schools in different geographical areas of KCMO by providing French-teacher/Para to introduce the language to pre-K children.

- Organize pre-school visits by Academie Lafayette graduates currently in high school.
- Provide calendar of times for parent tours prior to open enrollment.
- Develop dates, etc. of cultural events that AL can participate in.
- Develop a list of library events and coordinate with recruiting efforts.
- Repeat recruiting efforts from last year.

Discussion followed regarding the school's ability to coordinate and fund the above recommendations. Dave Cozad suggested that a budget for the pre-school visits be reviewed.

Motion

Mike Zeller moved to accept the recruitment recommendations as presented for a 3-month plan commencing Oct. 5, and completing in early January not to exceed \$2,600.00. Dr. Green seconded.

Discussion

Eric Nelis mentioned that the right person needed to be recruited for this effort.

Motion unanimously approved.

Dave Cozad then asked for a recommendation regarding hiring Stan Johnson & Assoc. to develop and assist with implementation of diversity training with staff. It was decided that this would be tabled until the Oct 12th , meeting.

Policy Review of 10 Policies – Dave Cozad

Dave distributed copies of 10 policies for review and to be discussed at the next meeting.

Teacher Representative – Patrick Sprehe

- Suggested that 2 representatives be elected for this school year. One serves the first year and provides information to the board representative for the incoming year and has a teacher alternate attending the board meetings. He suggested that a French teacher should be one of the representatives.

Charter School Annual Conference – Dave Cozad

Dave mentioned that he will be attending this conference and suggested that other board members review the program agenda and consider also attending.

At that point it was requested that the board go into closed session.

Motion

Mike Zeller moved to go into closed session. Dr. Green seconded.

Roll call vote taken.

Dave Cozad	Yes
Mike Zeller	Yes
Dr. Stephen Green	Yes
Pam Gard	Yes
Jane Alley	Yes
Melissa Thomas	Yes

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Carlos McClain