

**Board of Director's Meeting
April 13, 2009**

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Dave Cozad, President
Mike Zeller, Vice President
Kirk Farmer
Melissa Thomas
Brian Hendrickson
Harriet Charno
Herb Hardwick
Pam Gard
Jane Alley

Staff Present:

Eric Nelis
Rachael Gordon
Jean Claude
Patrick Sprehe

Guests

Chad Phillips
Sherri White
Jakini Menab
Julie Milner
Brad Cahoon

Dave Cozad opened meeting asking for comments from stakeholders.

Jean Claude commented that he has met a family at his church that recently had quadruplets and are very interested in their children attending this school. They have heard very good things about our school.

Sherri White distributed copies of a complaint regarding disciplinary actions taken against her son. A lengthy discussion followed involving her questions. She also mentioned that she would like to discuss it further in order to get her concerns resolved.

Melissa Thomas asked about our conflict resolution policy and asked how parents get a copy of it. Dave Cozad then suggested putting all policies on the website.

A past parent and relative of Sherry White was present and commented that her son was a student here in kindergarten and 1st grade and she saw a difference in his self-esteem after

being enrolled and she also had concerns that the apparent treatment of her son caused her to withdraw him from the school. She also introduced a book that she felt would be useful reading for the benefit of teachers that could better equip them to deal with diversity in the classroom. Dave Cozad mentioned that we are working on diversity issues and informed the group that we currently have an African American board member and a new board member who is also African American will be joining the board in the next few weeks. He commented that the school is working diligently to improve diversity issues in the school.

Principal's Report

- Currently recruiting and interviewing teachers who seem to be good French speakers and qualified to teach in the classroom.
- Eric Roskam gave information about the Le Grand Concours and mentioned that we have done well in the middle school and are awaiting the national results. He then answered specific questions about the Le Grand Concours.
- On May 7th, a group of staff, teachers and past and present board members travelled to Jefferson City, MO to receive the Gold Star Program award. He mentioned that there are now 8 schools that will be recommended for the national award.
- MAP testing started last week.
- Mike Zeller mentioned that Eric Nelis and Eric Roskam were to present to the board their plan to improve the diversity in the teaching staff and future interns. Eric Nelis mentioned that he has been working with teachers to get leads on potential teachers. Discussion followed and suggestions were given regarding various avenues in which to recruit minority teachers.

Teacher Report – Patrick Sprehe

- Patrick asked if a 10-minute time slot could be in place at the board meetings for teacher's questions and/or concerns. He mentioned that teachers are questioning the dollar amount that has been spent for the proposed building expansion. Teachers are discussing the question of whether or not we will have a cafeteria. Also, they want to know what is the nomination process for putting another teacher representative to the board in place.
-

Finance Committee Report – Jane Alley

A preliminary budget for the next year will be presented at the next board meeting.

Kirk Farmer mentioned that the loan application to IFF is in which will help fund some of the work done this summer and feels that it will be easily approved. He anticipates a response by the end of the week.

The lease for the church should be finalized in the near future. He mentioned that the final aspects for the use of the building are being worked out. Dave Cozad mentioned that the overall feeling from parents whose children would be attending in that location seemed to be pleased with the building and location. Discussion followed. Dave Cozad asked Rachael Gordon if we have received any responses from the cards sent to

kindergarten parents to see if they are still planning to attend. The question was raised as to whether or not we would fill the vacant spots with names on the waiting list or allow the number of kindergarteners enrolled to automatically go down. Pam Gard then suggested that we fill the vacant slots. A motion was then made regarding the number of kindergartners to be accepted for the 2009-2010 school year.

Motion

Pam Gard moved to accept 135 kindergartners for the 2009-2010 school year. Jane Alley seconded. Unanimously approved by the Board.

Pam Gard then mentioned that the KCMO school district's open enrollment begins in January. It was then suggested that we set the open enrolment date at this meeting. After discussion a motion was made.

Motion

Mike Zeller moved that open enrollment be set for Monday, January 4 – Monday, February 15, ending at 4:00 p.m. on Mon., Feb. 15, 2010. Jane Alley seconded.

Discussion: The time to end open enrollment was discussed and Eric Nelis suggested that we add a cut off time to the last day of open enrollment.

Amended Motion to add that the enrollment period would be Monday, January 4 – Monday, February 15, at 5:30 p.m. Jane Alley seconded. Motion carried.

It was decided that parents will be notified of their acceptance by the following Monday, Feb. 27 (1 week after the cut-off date).

Development Committee – Rachael Gordon

Rachael Gordon informed the group that Mary Pat Beal is working on setting up this year's annual fund. She also, mentioned that there is a plan to arrange monthly contributions from staff through payroll deductions.

Human Resources Committee – Jane Alley

- Completed the staff analysis and are ready to make recommendations.
- Estimates that we need 3 kindergarten teachers, 1 first grade, 1 third grade, 1 fifth grade, and 2 administrative staff for the second campus. She distributed info on qualifications for open positions and discussion followed regarding expectations of staff, lunch program, etc.

Jane Alley then asked for a motion to accept the teachers recommended for next year along with two administrative staff.

Motion

Herb moved to accept the recommendation to accept the 4 kindergarten teachers, 1 - 3rd grade teacher, and 2- 4th grade teachers. Kirk Farmer seconded. Unanimously approved.

- Jane mentioned that the HR Committee would be working on the evaluation process for teachers and staff. Upon completion, it will be placed in the handbook.
- Working on how stipends will be paid and the amounts.

Building Report – Eric Nelis

Eric Nelis informed the group that a maintenance person has been hired. Kirk Farmer asked about his background and it was stated that he is a former J.E. Dunn employee. Eric Nelis mentioned that Damien McNearney would continue to be called for specific tasks such as heating, plumbing, etc. The group was informed that this person would report to him.

Board President’s Report – Dave Cozad

- Dave Cozad asked if anything has come back from DESE as a follow-up from the charter renewal. Eric Nelis commented that there could possibly be some requirements that we will need to meet.
- Parent with EEOC has offered training for teachers and admin staff. Herb Hardwick then mentioned that a colleague of his had also done some of the same training with staff and that the response from teachers was good. He commented that the trainer mentioned that our staff needed more extensive training.
- It was suggested that an annual report be provided to our stakeholders on an annual basis, which would include an academic report, financial report, etc.

Dave also informed the group that he and Jane Alley had met regarding the agenda items to be discussed at the board strategic planning meeting and mentioned some of the topics that would be discussed. Location and time will need to be determined for the meeting. Jane Alley recommended that the new board members be available to participate in the strategic planning process. The tentative date is Monday, June 15, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. It was suggested that a facilitator be used for the Strategic Planning meeting and Mike Zeller had a recommendation of a person to contact as a facilitator. It was discussed that a survey would be compiled that will be completed by teachers and parents. The results of the surveys will be completed prior to the Board Strategic Planning Meeting.

Technology Committee – Eric Roskam

Eric Roskam introduced Julie Milner who presented the technology plan for the new school year. The big push is to have a School Improvement Plan in place, which includes the following:

- This is the third tech plan she has written for AL
- She discussed that as a database is developed for summer school and the next school years the technology person should document what they do to be used as future reference if needed.

- Mentioned that there is a gap in students' success and suggested that computers be offered to students and placed in the back of the classrooms. She also mentioned that remedial materials need to be purchased for use in the classrooms that can be used on the computer.
- EPEG program is being put in place and is mandated by the state to follow. She also mentioned that each school is going to be required to have a Comprehensive Improvement Plan.

Eric Roskam then gave additional explanation of the importance of the technology plan

Julie Milner informed the group that the plan needs to be voted on before May 1st, in order to meet the set deadline and stated that a big portion will be completed by the end of this week.

Some of the areas that need to be a part of the plan are:

Student performance

Highly qualified staff

Facilities support and instructional resources

Parental involvement

Discussion followed regarding requirements in completing this information and the fact that DESE as well as UCM is requiring that we complete this plan. It was also discussed as to how this plan will be utilized in the classroom, etc.

Eric Nelis mentioned that this is only one of many plans that we will need to work on to meet the requirements being mandated by DESE and UCM. Lengthy discussion continued.

Closed Session

Jane Alley then moved to go into closed session.

Herb Hardwick seconded.

Roll call vote taken.

Dave Cozad	yes
Mike Zeller	yes
Kirk Farmer	yes
Melissa Thomas	yes
Brian Hendrickson	yes
Harriet Charno	yes
Herb Hardwick	yes
Pam Gard	yes
Jane Alley	yes

Respectfully submitted,