



Board of Directors Meeting November 18, 2009

Present: Mr. Peroulas, Dr. Gutierrez, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Christenbury, Dr. Stylianou, Mr. Ward, Mr. Couchell

Also attending: Ms. Dellinger-Holton, Ms. P. Couchell, Mr. T. Deese, Mr. John Pete Couchell, Ms. J Tipton, Ms. Mabon, Ms. R. Hulsen, Ms. Elaine Claiborne, Ms. Maria Diamantis, Ms. Chris Linden, Mr. David Dean, Ms. Laurie Fischer, Ms. Jenne Phillips, Ms. Daniese Ingram, Ms. Suzanne Fortune, Ms. Aphrodite Davis, Mr. John Weber, Mr. Elbert Tolson, Mr. James Islam.

1. Mr. Peroulas called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. Motion: Approve October 14th minutes (Ward/Gutierrez). Passed unanimously.
3. 6th Grade enrollment for 2009-2010 - Maria Diamantis representing a group of 5th grade parents:
 - a. Recommendation to increase the 2010-2011 capacity of 6th grade from the current of 40 students to a maximum of 60 students. We need to proactively plan to not only replace students who will leave but to attract additional students. (We cannot assume that we will have 100% retention).
 - b. Benefits/Considerations:
 - i. Additional revenue/student from the state (to help with operational costs).
 - ii. Additional resources for teaching various subjects and levels can be more easily funded and supported with greater number of students. Likewise, other activities (athletics, music, etc.) are more likely due to greater pool of students to draw from.
 - iii. More scholars create a more diverse group of students which makes "middle school experience" more realistic and more appealing to rising 6th grade scholars.
 - iv. It appears that the new elementary school expansion will be complete by spring 2010. Therefore, there would be enough space to house an additional group of 20-6th grade students. The proposal would utilize existing capacity; it does not require additional facilities expenses.
 - v. Sixth grade is a natural transition point with many students changing schools anyway; it is a natural time to add to our enrollment.

- vi. Would need strategy to successfully integrate “new” scholars and families into existing curriculum and school culture (particularly with non-Greek speaking students).

Motion: Following considerable discussion a motion was made to increase the 2010-2011 6th grade enrollment to a maximum of 60 students.
(Gutierrez/Nixon) Passed unanimously

- 4. Mr. Peroulas presented an Auditor’s Contract from Mr. Darrell Keller for the current fiscal year.
 - a. Motion to approve and accept contract (Nixon/Ward) Passed unanimously
- 5. Ward: Building not capable of being wired, we have the labor (4-5 volunteers to help), but need to buy the materials, wire, wall plates, for about \$1000.
 - a. Motion to approve up to \$1100 to wire the rooms (Gutierrez/Nixon) Passed unanimously
- 6. Principal’s report:
 - a. The Media salutes Socrates Academy:
 - i. Larry Sprinkle video at the school
 - ii. Featured in 2 magazines
 - Little Ones Magazine, mentioned in article on giftedness and
 - My School Rocks Magazine, December issue will feature the Academy.
 - iii. Received compliments from UNCC Cheryl Pulliam and Dr. Calhoun on the Honor School of Excellence achievement.
 - b. Consideration of a Whistleblower’s policy for the academy:
 - i. Sample of policy attached and description of law enacted in 2009
 - ii. Darrell Keller, CPA, who completed our audit called to say the IRS is now asking to see a whistleblower’s policy in all organization’s policies. Suggesting we get ahead of the game by including this policy now before IRS asked for it.
 - iii. Executive Committee will work with the administration to draft a policy and present at the next Board meeting.
 - c. Recycling update:
 - i. Started recycling, paper and plastic, Capri sun
 - d. Winter performance update:
 - i. Monday December 14th 7:00 4/5th graders performing, all parents are invited, same auditorium as last year.
 - 1. Motion to approve up to \$675 for production expenses (Ward/Nixon) Unanimously approved
 - e. Status of Confucius Institute at North Carolina State University
 - i. Interviews conducted November 6th, and recommendations made. Candidates spent time with the 5th graders. CINCSU conducted a

telephone interview of the recommended candidate and is requesting more candidates.

- f. Honor school of Excellence Banner is ready for presentation from SBE, DPI to our Scholars, Staff, and BOD. Only on November 30th, Ben Putnam, DPI Office of Charter Schools is available for presentation. The school will also give out lanyards/ID cards at the same time.
- g. Gift of tree to St. Nektarios for use of their facility this year for- Professional Learning Community Meetings, Town Hall Meetings, AIG Parents meetings.
 - i. Motion to buy 1 large dogwood at \$150 (Ward/Stylianou) Unanimously approved
- h. The Office of Charter Schools has offered training to the Board of Directors. New Members have joined the Board, seasoned members may like to have a refresher course with updates and changes to the law and Charter Schools procedures. Jean Krufft, Consultant, Office of Charter Schools, DPI, can provide this training. Just choose a date and time and Jean will be glad to be with us for about 1 ½ hours of training. Do we want to take advantage of this training?
 - i. BOD members agree to participate, need to set up a date in 2010 to attend.

7. PFI President's Report:

- a. Ms. Tipton has a food service company coming in to talk to us, Preferred Meal Systems (all 5 days, \$3.75 meal, competitively priced, better food, they provide all the condiments, trays, etc.) Offer breakfast and snacks, they have refrigerators, and ovens. They will come in to look at space and see if we can do this?
 - i. Board had concerns about space and fixing food in the school, and health inspectors. Janna will get back with the board after she meets with the vendors.
 - ii. It was requested that the PFI secure three competitive bids so that the Board can evaluate.
- b. Installing a desktop computer in the front office:
 - i. Ms. Ingram: Would like to have a desktop computer up at the front to log in hours, log in school visitors, etc. Maybe get a used one donated. Mr. Weber thought he might have one the school could get.
 - ii. School store: No space needed can use a cart, supplies, pencils, etc. Possibly hold snacks, this would be a PFI run service. Would consider a credit system.
 - 1. Motion to approve to investigate having a school store (Nixon/Gutierrez) Approved unanimously
- c. Committees: Need someone to contact people who registered for committees and no one has contacted them. Janis stated we need to have parents committed in the committees and take ownership.

Stylianou-Recommend a task force to review our committees

8. BOD Policies & Procedures

- i. Whistleblower's Policy-Mr. Keller CPA, auditor, said audit was perfect but IRS states we have a whistleblower's policy. He's suggesting we get ahead of the game by including this policy now before IRS asked for it. See additional notes above.
 - a. Ward to propose to Janis to propose a draft by our next board meeting
- ii. Volunteer Handbook Policy:
 - a. Motion to approve Volunteer Handbook with some changes to be worked on by the Executive Committee (changes primarily to do with the listing of the committees)(Couchell/Ward) Approved unanimously
- iii. Library Policy-table for next meeting, bring detailed agenda
- iv. Listing of Committees (BOD, Administration, PFI, Foundation) table for next meeting. Exec. Committee would like a Board member to chair a committee Suzanne to survey us to find a ½ day
 - a. PFI and Janis/Suzanne to send in their committees with each chair person and email addresses. Exec. Committee will then review.
- v. Appointing Chaperones for the Fifth Graders' Journey to Greece (suggested traits) – for 35 kids we get 4 chaperones, trip is end of July through the first three weeks of August.
 - a. Table until next meeting.

8. Before & After School Director's Report (can not get this to be a # 9?)

- a. Renee is doing some planning for summer camps, Stylianou suggested getting a plan together for next meeting

9. BOD Committee Reports

- a. Budget/Finance
- b. Curriculum
- c. Facilities & Grounds
 - i. We have 3 quotes in now, Gastonia & Sheet Metal-Same price as last year (doing it now)– Arctic Heating & Unit, and George Takis from Durham.
 1. Motion to accept the bid for Arctic (Couchell/Nixon) Approved unanimously
- d. Fundraising
 - i. Foundation meeting this Friday, pledge cards are getting finalized, Director of Development job description is going to be advertised, show Mr. McGinnis our progress. Job posted on the website. Update on the golf tournament net profit. Aphrodite updated on the BBQ and Baklava
- e. Technology
 - i. Mrs. DH needs a PC, \$500
 1. Motion up to \$600 for a PC (Ward/Nixon) Approved Unanimously
 - ii. Need a better website and improvements
 - iii. Wiring next door needs to be put under (capital building line item)

- iv. Wants a person on staff to handle IT needs
- v. Cass to come to the next Exec. Committee meeting to present
- f. Marketing & Public Relations
 - i. Updated on brochure and we have some parents on the marketing committee. Get with Janis on ideas for 6th grade enrollment.

Motion to adjourn 10:05

Respectfully submitted:

Mitch Christenbury