



Omigbade Escayg
Head of School/Director

Mary Kate Boesch
Assistant Principal

Linda Hatfield Ed. D.
Assistant Principal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2015

Members Present:

Henry A. Lambert, Chair
Mark David
Diana J. Lee
Tony Betaudier
Omigbade Escayg
(ex-officio non-voting)
MihranKeoseian
(ex-officio non-voting)
Michelle Perpignan
(FAC-ex officio voting)

Member Absent

Michael A. Catlyn

Others Present

Mary Kate Boesch - Asst. Principal
Colathur Janardhanan
Jamel Cherry
Mehari Haile
Sandra Cacho (parent)
Felicia Alexander (parent)

The meeting was held on April 21, 2015 at the School. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. The minutes for the meetings held on February 24, 2014 and March 24, 2015 were reviewed and adopted.

There was discussion on the Common Core and how much of the learning is now teaching to the test.

Finance

Janardhanan reported that the school technology costs have been reimbursed. The recapture of \$60,000 (based on initial reimbursements for 260 students has not occurred yet). Mihran stated it was unlikely the State would waive the recapture based on another School's experience. The current enrollment of the School was 230.

Jamel reported that the 3% contribution for 401Ks has been finalized.

Henry requested a meeting with the insurance consultant to review all possibilities to cut the insurance costs including raising the deductible and have the School fund it.

Education

Jamel reported that the lottery was held. There were 725 applicants, an 84% increase over last year. 350 of these were for kindergarten. We have 75-80 K seats but are targeting to accept 90 due to drop-outs in the application process. 127 kindergarten applicants have confirmed interest by submitting required paperwork. Henry suggested that letters to parents confirm the positive aspects of the School: bus matron, Saturday Academy, tutorials. The Board stressed that the process of accepting applicants has to be carefully managed so we don't wind up with 30 students per kindergarten class. We will be taking 3-5 new students in the other grades. We need

to find out as early as possible which students will be returning for the next school year.

ELA testing was completed last week and Math testing will begin tomorrow for 3 days. It was observed that our students did more writing and more students finished the test. Mary Kate reported that some of the questions were abstract and difficult to answer. The Saturday Academy and Tutorials were beneficial but inconsistent attendance was a problem. She saw improvements every week in the data. A parent commented that she did not see improvement. A parent complained that the School did not contact her earlier to tell her child was having difficulty. Tony felt the School provided extra help too little and too late. Only one Spanish speaking family with two kids opted out of testing.

Henry asked Omi to recommend to the next Board meeting what should be done next year to assist in preparing for the tests. Mihran said it should be an assessment of what worked and what didn't work and the extra help should be provided earlier.

Legal

Henry remarked that Board expansion was not needed at this time. There was no report re the Wedding Garden.

There was no Faculty Report as the faculty representative was absent.

Family Action Committee

Michelle reported that a FAC meeting will be scheduled for next week, also a movie night. Muffins for Mom will be on May 8. The book fair netted \$1,604 which will be used to restock books in the classrooms. Parents complained about the short notice for meetings, the lack of meetings and the lack of input from parents on how to spend the book fair proceeds.

Head of School Report

Omi reported that the Annual Comprehensive Review will be held by DOE on May 13. DOE will visit the School and determine if BCS was a viable academic institution, a viable financial institution and longevity. The results of the review are important for Charter renewal.

Discussion followed on the quality of teaching.

Jamal reported that training was done for the bus matrons but they need medical exams, fingerprinting and letters of recommendation. The process is not in our control but hopefully matrons will be in place by May.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm. The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana J. Lee, Secretary