

**Success Preparatory Academy
Board Meeting
February 4, 2010**

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

Lee Adler, Ben Blanchard, Kathy Broussard, Avery Corenswet. See also below regarding Anderson Baker and Avionne Brown. All matters after their election to the Board include their participation as Board members.

Board Members Unable to Attend

Jack Carey, Nia Davis, Sassy Wheeler

Also in Attendance

St. Claire Adriaan, Niloy Gangopadhyay, Brittney Baize, Avionne Brown (before approval as a Board Member), Anderson Baker (before approval as a Board Member), Jeff Keller and Karen Tipton

1. Approval of Minutes from January 2010 Meeting

Motion to approve minutes: Adler
Second: Broussard
Approved unanimously

2. Approval of New Board Members

Ben had met with Avionne separately and her background.
Motion to approve Avionne Brown as a new Board member: Blanchard
Second: Broussard
Approved unanimously

Kathy had proposed Anderson. His insurance background and prior board experiences will be valuable.

Motion to approve Anderson Baker as a new Board member: Blanchard
Second: Broussard
Approved unanimously

3. Financial Budget Update

Revised final budget recognizes PCSP change.
Motion to approve the budget as amended: Broussard

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Second: Blanchard
Approved unanimously

Budget will assume 238 students for the fiscal year. Goal now is \$20,000 for fundraising. Will take a push. We have \$5,800 so far. Goal is average \$2,250/month.

We will look to hire an “interventionist” this spring to assist with special education students.

We have about 10% special education students (more are tier 1 (moderate) than tier 2 or 3). Allocation from the State will drop for remainder of year because of there being more tier 1 students.

Brittany is still working with RSD on lunch reimbursements that we owe. This is a bigger impact for us because we have so many students. State is aware of the problems with their calculations and aligning them with ours.

Rumors are that rent will not be charged next year but some fees for an alternative school will be assessed and for property insurance (fees are charged by reducing the monthly state/local MFP (minimum foundation program) funding that is distributed to schools).

4. Financial Procedures Policy Manual

Highlights include separations of duties. Brittany has no check signing authority but she reconciles accounts. Office manager opens all mail. Kathy Broussard can login at any time. Co-heads of school can write checks but both must sign checks greater than \$5,000. Broussard went to BESE meeting. She will need access to bank statements too.

Avionne to help supply a documentation retention policy.

Motion to adopt Financial Procedures Policy Manual: Baker

Second: Brown
Approved unanimously

Kathy will start her spot checks too.

5. Insurance Policy Review

BESE to meet in March re: crime insurance coverage. They may require \$1,000,000 but that does not make sense for our \$2,000,000 budget. We will see. Right now we have \$300,000.

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6. Fundraising Update

Ben not happy with what we have received so far but will meet with Board members individually.

In the long term, we still want every child playing musical instruments.

In March or April, Ben wants each Board member to invite 10-15 people to his/her home to let them know about SPA, to increase the network. Focus on the “friendraising.” Make it clear this is not about money (for now anyway). See if co-heads of school or teachers can be there.

7. Race to the Top Update

There is no plan yet to consider adopting because we do not know what the State’s plan is yet. The heads of school are planning to address this initially with the faculty after Mardi Gras. One unknown issue is whether we will be a “re-start” or “turn-around”? There are two other categories that are not relevant.

8. Sunshine Committee Report

Blanchard reminded the Board to stay in touch with teachers and keep up with them.

9. School Leaders Reports

A. I-Leap test coming up in April for 3rd grade. Interim benchmark testing in October was 33%, December 43%, January 55%. Goal of 4th benchmark is 70% - may be high. Saturday school starts February 6.

B. Starting after-school program next week with Battiste family. First hour – homework help (I-Leap prep), then arts. Four days per week. Funding is coming through 21st Century grant. St. Claire took advantage of South African connections. It will run through this school year and we will see what develops for renewal. 85 students are enrolled. We cannot handle the transportation though. Avery asked about media promotion opportunities with the jazz community coming by.

Blanchard: motion to adjourn

Broussard: second