

**Success Preparatory Academy
Board Meeting
Thursday, May 6, 2010**

Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

Lee Adler, Anderson Baker, Ben Blanchard, Kathy Broussard, Avionne Brown, Avery Corenswet, Sassy Wheeler.

Board Members Unable to Attend

Jack Carey, Nia Davis.

Also in Attendance

St. Claire Adriaan, Brittney Baize, Niloy Gangopadhyay.

1a. Motion to approve Agenda

Motion: Blanchard
Second: Baker
Approved unanimously

1b. Motion to approve Minutes from April Board meeting

Motion: Baker
Second: Adler
Approved unanimously

2. Succession Panning for Board Officers

Avery led discussion about officers and Board terms. She will step down as Board Chair at June 30. Three 2-year terms are permitted under By-laws. Current terms of Board members is:

2nd 2 Year Term Ending June 2011	1st 2 Year Term Ending June 2010	1st 2 Year Term Ending June 2011
Kathy Broussard Jack Carey Avery Corenswet	Ben Blanchard Nia Davis Sassy Wheeler	Lee Adler Anderson Baker Avionne Brown

Issues assessed include: how much experience is necessary with the finances, need for Board expansion, should the Vice-Chair automatically move up, accessibility.

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For the immediate future, need to determine officers. People will submit nominations (slate) for consideration at June meeting and then vote. Self-nominations are acceptable.

3. Financial/Budget Update

Brittany reviewed current financials and then the budget for 2010-2011. Important to get grants applications going.

Assumptions in the budget were discussed:

- Rent has the potential to bankrupt the school.
- \$500,000 on transportation for 2010-2011.
- Health insurance/benefits. We are at the bare minimum of what we can absorb for the staff. Can we increase it?
- The revenue projections are very conservative.
- We are below the threshold of necessary faculty.

4. Meeting with Paul Vallas 5/12 3p

The situation with whether Wicker will stay keeps changing. Move Wicker out? Find students new schools. There is capacity at other schools. The Success children are being exposed to gang fights. Co-heads feel hampered by outside influences both at Wicker and within the Recovery School District. Success is being burdened and punished. Some parents have been in touch with Vallas and he seems more responsive to parents of school children rather than the heads of school.

There will be a meeting on May 12 with Vallas. There was discussion as to what needs to be accomplished.

Objectives:

- A safe school environment. There are two security officers who generally sleep. If Wicker stays, they need to cap enrollment at 170 rather than adding even more students to the mix. As it is, Wicker has not been able to handle the 170 students they currently have. Demonstrate all of our parental involvement to Vallas.
- We need the opportunity to perform without impairment from the Wicker distractions. With yet another new principal this coming school year, there is concern that Wicker could be used to place teachers and students who are not performing or have created other problems. This threatens our ability to implement the school

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transformation model. As it is, the open plan of the building and the already existing over-crowding at Wicker promotes fighting.

5. School Leader Job Description

Draft materials were handed out for discussion at next Board meeting. The descriptions will help evaluations.

6. Fundraising Update

The Fundraising Committee is getting more active. Meet and greets are helping get more people to the school. Ben referenced the emails sent out with related materials.

7. Race to the Top Update

Latest round of Race to the Top has been pushed back. We may hear back by the end of June.

8. School Leaders Report

- We reviewed the projected enrollment.
- Some students have left and we have some students who will not return because of the safety issue arising from the alleged sexual assault at Wicker.
- We expect some students to not return even though they filed forms saying they intend to return.
- Next week will be first expulsion hearing. A student who has been challenging returned and subsequently a teacher was shot at by a bb or air gun. It was determined conclusively that it was this child. He is 10 years old and is in 3rd grade.

9. Wellness Policy and Promotion Policy Update

- Wellness policy is needed. A draft was presented for review. Will there be a physical education teacher or a teacher who goes to each class to help?
- Niloy also explained the policies for promotion of students to the next grade levels and proposed changes. The different elements need to be objective more than subjective. There will be notices of possible non-promotion if a child is in danger of not being promoted. Because of the points being in the handbook, the Board needs to vote on it. They will be effective for the next school year. We will assess this for the new handbook.

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Meeting adjourned 8:49.