

**Success Preparatory Academy  
Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 7, 2010**

Board Members in Attendance

Lee Adler, Anderson Baker, Kathy Broussard, Avery Corenswet, Nia Davis, Sassy Wheeler

Board Members Unable to Attend

Ben Blanchard, Jack Carey, Avione Pichon

Also in Attendance

St. Claire Adriaan, Brittany Baize, Niloy Gangopadhyay, Sean Singleton

Call to Order

6:30 p.m. Meeting called to order by Chair Wheeler

1. Review Agenda and Minutes

Move: Avery Corenswet. Second: Sassy Wheeler.

- A. Appoint Adler as Assistant Secretary to take minutes for the meeting.
- B. Move acceptance of September minutes to end of the meeting.
- C. Going forward at Board meetings the Financial Update section will be part of the Finance Committee report.

Unanimously approved.

2. Board Chair Report

Kathy will be able to attend the BESE hearing on October 14, 2010 along with Sassy and Avione.

The report by Avione and Jack from their attendance at the September 14, 2010 Special Education meeting held by NSNO will be in November since neither is at this meeting.

3. School Leaders Report

Post-Labor Day jump in enrollment did not happen. We will need to adjust recruitment strategies and hiring staff. We came up 34 students short of goal.

But in terms of school culture and student/teacher ratio, we should see stronger results.

Mrs. Abdol returned on October 1, 2010. She had to take a hiatus as part of her H-1 immigration.

Transportation nightmares are over. It has leveled off. We added another bus for special education students. This is a significant expense. Three students are using it although there are actually six students who can use the bus. For the students opting out of using the bus, the families sign waivers stating they are declining to use the school appointed bus. We have 27 special education students total.

Benchmark testing was this week. Official results will be next week.

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See also the written School Leaders reports.

Details for Halloween Fest at Success will follow.

Sally Ann Roberts will appear at our November 4, 2010 Success To College program. So far we have had a local television weatherman and he was well-received by the students. They asked a lot of question.

4. Financial Update

Enrollment has had a negative impact on budget. The Board-approved budget assumed 360 students but the official count on October 1<sup>st</sup> was 330. Therefore, for the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2011, we now project income to exceed expenses by \$4,700 (for comparison purposes, the number previously had been \$37,000 as originally projected based on a student population of 360).

5. Approval of 2010-2011 Committee Goals

We now have all the goals from the committees. When Wellness Committee starts to meet, the goals will be revised and be more detailed.

Motion by Avery Corenswet to approve the committee goals presented at the September and October meetings. Seconded by Kathy Broussard. Unanimously approved.

6. Committee Reports

A. Academic Excellence

Will add committee members, including an education researcher (quantitative).

September Terra Nova test scores are in. We did “Stanford 10” previously but more schools here use Terra Nova. At the meeting next month the results and data will be presented.

Interim 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade tests (Achievement Network 2) were done. ELA still is a problem in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Low reading levels. We will have an interventionist as a “pull out” program. This will not reduce budget numbers. However, it will reduce the bonus pool for staff.

A number of students transfer in and have to adapt. In other words, early analysis suggests that the students who have been transferred to SPA have the most catching up to do. ELA for 4<sup>th</sup> grade is doing better.

Bonus pool has been \$80,000. Will reduce around half or little less.

Math for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders is vastly improved.

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Report cards come on October 22. Same day is parent conference day.

B. Community Outreach  
No report.

C. Development.  
See written report.

Second Meet and Greet was held this past Monday.

D. Facilities  
See written report.

We will need to plan for modular buildings in two years. The additional expense is estimated to be \$20,000-\$25,000/year. Niloy and Anderson will begin following up with RSD.

RSD paid for music room mold remediation and fixing plumbing. Pursuant to the Lease, RSD should pay for capital expenses.

We have to come up with form for monthly maintenance reporting. Need to coordinate with Main Tech. Anderson and Niloy to follow up.

E. Finance  
Brittany working with Kendall Wolfson to show her the reporting, payroll, computers, etc. Kendall will be replacing Brittany as Director of Finance. The responsibilities of the position and the title may alter based on input from School Leaders. Brittany is moving to Houston on December 1, 2010 but will work remotely to ensure smooth transition.

Audit for July 2009 – June 2010 is underway.

Re: Financial Policies and Procedure Manual: as Brittany has been working with Kendall some issues have come up to streamline the policies and procedures.

Within one to two weeks, School Leaders and Kathy will update us on replacing Brittany.

F. Governance  
No report.

G. Organizational Planning & Effectiveness  
See written report.

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H. Wellness

Avery met with Matt Frost, PE Teacher. He will work on \$2,500 grant from Alliance for a Healthier Generation to help the Committee enact programs to encourage wellness – guest speakers, food tastings.

7. Stepping Up to Plate: Transforming School Food in New Orleans

Under this program, chefs from around New Orleans sign up to work with schools. Leah Chase has signed up. SPA is nearby. Do we have any connections? Anderson may. He will check into it.

8. Open Discussion

Avery Corenswet moved to approve September meeting minutes. Seconded by Kathy Broussard. Unanimously approved.

Avione and Nia were invited to the Service Learning Committee at SPA. This will assist teachers with lesson planning.

9. Action Items Review

- Avery, Avione, Nia and Brittany to confirm whether June and July meeting minutes have been approved.
- Kathy to let us know about efforts to replace Brittany.
- Draft Financial Procedures and Policies Manual revisions for next meeting.
- Wellness policy.
- Form needs to be prepared for Main Tech to do the monthly reporting on building and property maintenance, for SPA and to be provided to RSD.
- Anderson to check on his contacts with Leah Chase's son and grandson.
- Long-term, Niloy and Anderson to get with RSD regarding modular buildings for the campus.

Adjournment

8:45 Meeting adjourned. Nia Davis moved. Avery Corenswet seconded.