

**Success Preparatory Academy
Board Meeting
Thursday, February 10, 2011**

Board Members in Attendance

Lee Adler, Anderson Baker, Kathy Broussard, Nia Davis, Sean Singleton, Sassy Wheeler

Board Members Unable to Attend

Ben Blanchard, Avione Pichon-Brown, Jack Carey, Avery Corenswet

Also in Attendance

St. Claire Adriaan, Niloy Gangopadhyay, Kendall Wolfson

Call to Order

6:45 p.m. Meeting called to order by Sassy Wheeler.

- 1a. Motion by Broussard to revise the Agenda to (a) elect an Assistant Secretary for the meeting and that Adler be so appointed and (b) add report from Rebowe.

Seconded by Davis. Unanimously approved.

- 1b. Baker motion to approve the January meeting minutes.

Seconded by Broussard. Unanimously approved.

- 1c. Don Wheat from Rebowe (auditor) presented the fee quote. Last year was \$11,000 but they charged \$8,000. The fee quote this year will be \$11,500 but will involve more work this year due to additional federal and BESE requirements. But the work to complete most of the 990 Form (new this year) will be a one time expense.

Board needs to approve engagement so the Legislative Auditor can approve it.

Mr. Wheat's contact information is: office (504) 837-9116, cell (504) 621-6731, dwheat@rebowe.com.

2. Board Training: Academic Excellence Committee

At the last meeting we talked about Terra Nova Testing and the ELA program. Gangopadhyay presented some information and graphs on Kindergarten – 2nd grade.

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There are to be five IAs (Interim Assessments) this year. Three so far have been conducted (September, November and January).

Looking at the bar graphs presented as to the first three IAs, notice 2nd grade there was a dip between 2nd and 3rd IAs. The children had not been exposed much to the new material being tested and the rigorousness is much more. It will not be until the 5th IA to see how the kids have grown.

The administration sees positive results for future Terra Nova testing. The tests also can be used for teacher assessment. However, there have not been any significant differences between classes of the same grade levels. Each bar on the graph represents the average score for each class at each interim assessment (1, 2 and 3) for math and reading language arts.

Adriaan said there will be more focus on vertical integration between 2nd and 3rd grades.

3rd grade math is still doing great. ELA is still hovering at 40% average (same as three other transformation charter schools that opened last year – Arise Academy, Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School and Pride College Prep). Adriaan is going to focus on grammar.

3. School Leaders Report

NSNO/Abicus came by to review how the school is operating. They will issue a report within one month.

Special education is in the highest compliance that it ever has been.

See also the reports from Adriaan and Gangopadhyay.

4. Committee Reports

A. Community Outreach – no report.

B. Development – See report. Wolfson and Carey have broken down donations into three categories. Also, total goals and Strides for Success goals.

The video for Strides for Success should be out soon.

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- C. Facilities – Gangopadhyay has sent assorted emails to Ms. Coulon to RSD re: facilities issues. Baker has gone to different meetings re: facilities. Typically they are covering facilities issues for phase 1 and phase 2. But we have learned SPA may be in line for a new roof.

RSD and OPSB have commissioned a study on projected demographics in 2016 and 2021, to help with allocation of resources for facilities.

RSD typically has become neighborhood-oriented. They want 50% of students at each school to be from surrounding areas. This also would help reduce transportation expenses.

- D. Finance – As of 2/1/11, we had 330 students, so SPA will not lose funds for the year.

We still are waiting on revised allocations for grant funds. May hear next week.

The Form 990 is based on the audited financial statements for 2009-2010. There were no other comments. Wolfson will confirm who should sign it.

Medicaid reimbursements: Wolfson and Broussard are looking at hiring coordinator, Accelify, who will help with testings of students and reimbursements. They charge a percentage of the reimbursements – 7.5%. Schools that have used this company have had clean audits. Finance Committee will look at Accelify.

The Committee gave an update on where they stood relative to their goals for 2010-2011 as requested by the Board Vice-Chair as follows:

1. Increase committee size to 4 members. Committee hopes to be at three members by the next Board meeting. Kathy to have lunch with new recruit on Tuesday. Two subcommittees being planned, but may be revised.
 - Personnel, practices and procedures including healthcare, 401K benefits, salaries, and safety issues.
 - Planning to address (a) outgrowth of present facilities in 2 years, (b) Medicaid reimbursements and (c) capital expenditures.

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2. Conduct a comprehensive Board education of the budget for the 2010-2011 school year- this was completed at the December 2010 Board meeting.
3. Separate financial modeling for assessing impact of growth in student population, and possible relocation or renovation. This has been achieved for student population growth, but not for facilities yet.

The Committee indicated that they had achieved 50% of their goals through this point (January) in the year.

- E. Governance – Adler discussed where the Committee is with its goals.
 - F. Organizational Planning and Effectiveness – See reports.
 - G. Wellness – SPA received a \$2,500 Healthy Schools Program Implementation Grant. Coach Matt Frost was instrumental in making the grant application. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation (founded by the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation) granted SPA the funds based on a comprehensive plan that covered our morning fitness program, our regular physical education classes, and the formation of a wellness committee which has been in the works for a while.
5. Open Discussion

There are some kids tearing the building apart. One is 14 years old in 4th grade. Belligerent. Good kids' parents are threatening to take their kids out. Parents of three students have been notified that their children's actions and multiple suspensions will lead to expulsions hearings.

The Board meeting for March will be held March 10th instead of March 3rd because of anticipated difficulties to hold the meeting on the 3rd (due to Mardi Gras parades).

March 18 is scheduled ceremony for college t-shirt ceremony presentations.

Through Partnership with Communities in Schools, we learned that 60 students needed glasses as nursing students from William Carey University spent four days doing comprehensive health screenings (including vision) of all students.

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On February 24, the “muffins with moms” gathering will take place and there will be celebrations of Black History Month. Sally Ann Roberts will be back.

The Student Family Involvement Committee will meet on February 15th. The committee will discuss 1) classroom parent responsibilities and 2) classes from the Urban League to offer to families.

Tonight was the second Prime Time Reading event.

Adjournment

8:37 Meeting adjourned.

Attachments