



**CHICAGO**  
VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOL<sup>SM</sup>

**BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2009; 6:30 pm**  
**Merit School of Music**  
**38 S. Peoria, Chicago, IL 60607**

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 p.m. by President Martin.

***Student Presentation***

There were two presentations from the high school: the tutoring program and the student council. Shikinna Johnson, president of student council, explained that they have a full board with a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The student council meets once a month and discusses things going on with the school, and what charities and fundraisers to have. There were two fundraisers this year: Hats, Scarves and Gloves and Pennies for Patients to raise money for those with cancer. Other school clubs include a tutoring club, running club and yearbook club.

The tutoring club tutors students from kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The high schoolers do the tutoring. The high schoolers are paired up with a younger student. Parents asked for tutoring in science, math or reading. The students not only learn but build relationships. There is a pizza party at the end of the term for students that participate.

***Public Comment***

Parent, Bridgette Mendel, is upset about the Promotion policy. The subject assessments now are to be done at the school rather than at home. The question is about the policy and why all the parents haven't been notified about the policy change. HOS Bruce Law explains that CVCS is a mastery program. The promotion is usually verified by progress and the teacher however, there is some concern that students haven't mastered the material. With the assessment done the policy has been changed in order to verify that the students should move on.

The assessment helps teachers to know what parts of the curriculum need each particular student may need to work on.. The parent handbook states that there **may** be a test at school to assess a student's mastery. Ms. Cray explains that it was optional before and now it is mandated. The parents aren't against the policy, they are concerned that they were only notified by mail, and two weeks after they had notified CVCS that their student was ready for promotional materials.

Another problem identified by parents present is books. Promotional materials have not been made available. Parents told warehouse closed for inventory. Also, here was a 6 week delay with books from K12 lasat fall. Materials not received until mid October. The parents want to know who to speak to at K-12 that can fix the books issue. Ms. Rogers assures the parents that there are programs that can be supplemented for students that haven't received their books. A PTO member suggested a book sharing program be set up through PTO.

Concern was expressed that the 3 elements of CVCS educational program – Parents (Learning Coaches'), Students, Teachers does not seem to be working. Parents want input and a shared commitment. The question of how policies are made and applied needs to be clarified. Why is a policy all of a sudden implemented now.

Parent, Debra Staley, attended lobby day to represent CVCS. She wants to believe in CVCS and is concerned if parents are not participating as expected, and is worried about the potential loss of school funding.

The parents are asking for a written agreement so they to know what is going to be expected and what the procedures are.

Mr. Tomin ask that teachers be part of the decision on whether or not to test a student at school for mastery.

President Martin that there will be a resolution will be some sort of a communication for each family. Treasurer Bargon says that the board needs to have some say so on the policy, and must discuss the book issue with K12.

The parents left at 8:26 pm.

### ***HOS Report***

HOS is preparing to develop parent handbook for 2009-10. Atty. Allison stated that the attorney needs to approve the handbook, CPS doesn't have to. HOS Law explains that there will be a detailed explanation about what CVCS expects from parents and what parents can expect from CVCS. He is encouraging parent input, possibly through focus groups. Treasurer Bargon suggests a parent. A parents' advisory committee that would get questions/concerns from parents and address these with K12. Treasurer Vice President McCann will get back to Board with an example.

The Chicago Public Schools Office of New Schools sent out a performance report for CVCS. HOS Law will send a .PDF file explaining how to look at data and comparison with other charter schools.

Enrollment for the 2008-2009 period is closed. A lottery, to be conducted by Intellipict Systems, will be held on April 20, 2009. Intellipict uses a strategy of random selection for each grade. This is for new students.

An incentive program for Study Island Test Prep was successful with 395 of 396 participating. Parents gave verbal feedback to teachers which they provide to K12 feedback. Merit Schools Operations Manager stated that this year's ISAT testing was much better than last year.

The world language attendance is not forced. It is supplemental elective. 70 of the 160 students that are enrolled haven't signed in since January. Leigh is encouraging parents to sign on with their students and use the program and if they don't they will lose privileges.

### **Treasurer's Report**

There is no material change from last month.

## **Board Business**

### **Facility Materials Modification proposal**

HOS Law is asking teachers to give feedback on their needs in a new facility. K12 wants to assume the responsibility for negotiations with Merit. There was Board consensus to withdraw the CPS Materials Modification letter for the 800 N. Wells building, and the increase in student population. Ms. Allison will draft the withdrawal letter, Motion by McCann, seconded by Bargon to give President Martin authorization to sign the lease with Merit upon attorney approval. Motion carried on voice vote: Hawkins, aye; Bargon, aye. McCann, aye, Martin, aye.

### **403B program for staff**

McCann motioned, seconded by Bargon, to approve Mass Mutual as the provider of a 403B program for staff commencing with the start of the new school year July 1, 2009) There needs to a motion to approve HOS Law to implement the program when the resources are available preferably when the teachers contracts begin. Hawkins, aye; Bargon, aye. McCann, aye, Martin, aye.

### **School Evaluation**

The Self Evaluation portion of the total School Evaluation is being conducted. On site evaluation will occur sometime in April.

The Board Planning Session Follow up is postponed until next meeting.

### **Other**

Atty Allison reminded HOS Law that he needs to discuss the book distribution issue with K12. The Board feels that K12 owes the parents an apology.

The board went into executive session at 9:20 p.m.

Board returned to open session at 10:25 pm. Hawkins, aye; Bargon, aye. McCann, aye, Martin, aye

Future Agenda Topics:

Board member recruitment,  
Parent Advisory Committee  
School Evaluation results

#### **Board Members**

Rudy Martin, President  
 Mary T. McCann, Vice President  
 Kevin Bargon Treasurer  
 Tina Hawkins, Director  
 Andrew Woltman, Director  
 Catherine Elizondo,  
Secretary(online)

#### **Others**

Dr. Bruce Law, HOS  
 Shaunna Finley, CVCS  
 Rinda Allison, Legal Counsel  
 Alan Wall  
 Dominique Brown  
 Other

Meeting Phone contact: 1-888-867-0444; conference code: 543767.