



CHICAGO VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLSM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING **MINUTES**

Thursday October 15, 2009 7:00 pm
Merit School of Music
38 S. Peoria, Chicago, IL 60607

Meeting called to order at 7:09 by President Martin. Board members present; McCann, Bargon, Tyler, Fredrick. CVCS: HOS Law.

Motion to approval of minutes of August and September meetings by McCann, seconded by Fredrick. Motion approved on unanimous voice vote.

Recognition of past board members

Vice President McCann read a plaque recognizing previous board members for their contributions to the CVCS mission and programs. Board members recognized were: Catherine Elizondo, Andrew Woltman, Tina Hawkins.

HOS Report:

HOS Law is introduced the new Operations Manager Farland Jenkins. He has a background in Operations with a master's degree, and has charter school experience.

In November, HOS Law will be presenting a dashboard of student progress. Currently he is trying to produce incentives for students. Incentives include an ice cream sundae contest, pizza for high school students, first quarter awards assembly-recognizing a number of different things that include attendance.

Upcoming CVCS events: 8th grade Harlem Renaissance Potluck and Student Presentations occurred on Oct. 9th. There will be brown bag math and language arts sessions for the parents and learning coaches to learn about ways to help the students study in order to prepare for the ISATs. LC for 3rd - 8th grades can attend the brown bag sessions. Mr. Tomin thinks that there are some parents that aren't interested because ISATs aren't until March so they aren't preparing yet.

HOS Law thinks that there can be an effort to tailor brown bag sessions to specific skills students may need. McCann asks if these will be a regular sessions. HOS Law would like them to be, but he is not sure because of the low interest that parents have in the program.

Taste of CVCS (Nov. 23rd) is for parents to bring a dish of their culture or background for people to try/taste..

Enrollment is currently at 563 with current high school enrollment is at 73. In terms of finances, for the first quarter it seems that CVCS is running at a deficit of \$131,936. The reason is because the Walton Grant was viewed as revenue 2 years ago but there are some things being purchased during this current year. There is an expected loss of \$300,000 with no real loss because of the Walton Grant and K-12 taking on a \$70,000 deficit for CVCS to breakeven.

Board member Fredrick wants to know if converting everything from accrual to cash would make it easier for people to understand the budget when reading. Treasurer Bargon explains it can still be confusing, but it may help make it more understandable, but would like to discuss it in a board planning meeting.

CVCS's 501-C-3 application is still under review.

HOS Law provided an organizational chart.. McCann would like HOS Law to provide teachers names on chart. Treasurer Bargon suggests that there be added lines to go through the whole lineup of every employee at the school.

Financial Report

HOS reviewed the Financial reports. Vice President McCann asks about where the transit passes and CTA costs are accounted for in the budget, who provides the in-kind services, and what is in the off-site storage. Treasurer Bargon will get back to Vice President McCann about the transit passes, CPS provides the in-kind services and HOS Law will see what is stored in the off -site storage.

Board Business

K12 Incentive Provisions Support

This will be discussed amongst the board at the board's planning meeting. Treasurer Bargon asks HOS Law to present the K12 Incentive Provisions Support to the Board at planning meeting.

Facilities: Planning Committee Update

President Martin explains that there was a conference call with IFF to discuss the planning. Survey information indicates CVCS does not have to stay in the downtown area, there was no great interest in making CVCS a school with a whole day, but rather increasing the classroom day to 3 hours rather than 2. HOS Law feels that the teachers don't feel more for or against the day change. HOS Law suggests that there needs to be more data collected to make the decision about the class time that students spend at CVCS. Treasurer Bargon is against moving for at least another 2 years.

HOS Law and Board members Fredricks and Bargon agree that the board needs a number of scenarios so there are different options evaluated. President Martin asks does the school want to own or lease. The board would like options for both Ownership and Leasing.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Update

Pam Tabor passes out a packet and asks that the board look over the packet and issues can be discussed in the November meeting. There is one piece missing from the packet but those interested can find it on the PAC's webpage. Board members Fredrick and Bargon expressed thanks to the PAC.

Attorney Update

Attorney Wall explains that the application for the 501-C3 is still under review.

Approve K12 first quarter payment (Action)

Approval of the K12 first quarter payments cannot be done today.

Board Planning Meeting October 17th.

Motion by Vice President McCann to have a strategic planning meeting on Oct. 17th, with a facilitator from the Illinois Association of Charter Schools, so it will be a closed meeting per 2(c)16 of the Open Meetings act, seconded by Board member Tyler. Voice vote unanimous aye.

Future agenda items

- Future motion/discussing for high school students to have the opportunity to retake tests or open a test if a student misses the time to complete the test.
- Vice President McCann would like HOS Law to explain what the Walton Grant covers.

Member Comments

- Vice President McCann asks how many students CVCS lost last month. HOS Law doesn't know but will give the info to her.

- Vice President McCann would like the new org chart with the teachers named emailed to the Board of Directors.

Public Comment

- Mr. Tabor explains that he doesn't know if a full day of school would be ok. CVCS is a hybrid so it may not be the best for parents and students in terms of learning they do at home . A full day could cut the enrollment in half.
- Ms. Russell, a CVCS HS Teacher, would like to know if there would be other options of 2 half days per week rather than a full day. She feels that there may be better results with more time for class.
- Mrs Tabor mentions the issue related to Accelerated Learners Program which requires students to read books out of their grade level. Later student is required to fill in a form that says they have read a book they have not read, and answer questions on that book. Answers for books that have not been read are given to the student .
Mrs. Tabor explains that she and others feels uncomfortable with clicking that you've done the work but the student really hasn't. She wants to know if there is a solution so that students don't have to say they've done it but they really haven't. Treasurer Bargon suggests that HOS Law send a letter to K12 to find a solution.
Teachers Russell and Toman suggest teachers can check the work off, rather than students.
- Ms. Thomas wants to know about services where parents can get services from their neighborhood schools. Treasurer Bargon would like to know who coordinates the services for the students. HOS Law will look into it and get back to the parent and board.

HOS Comment

- Dr. Law explains that he will look into the issues brought up by parents.
- The November dashboard will discuss the high school GPA and high school attendance.
- There have been a 105 letters sent out for absentee with five and ten day absences sent to students that are missing school. Attorney Allen Wall would like the absentee policy emailed to him. Vice President McCann suggest we look into having someone become a truant officer for students that aren't in school. Board members should also be familiar with attendance policy.
- Vice President McCann asked if CVCS was doing exit interviews. Law said that K12 does random exit interviews. McCann suggested that the Board look into having someone follow up with exit interviews for the Board.

Executive Session

Motion to move into executive session at 9:12 pursuant 2C1 of the Open Meeting Act, motion by Vice President McCann, seconded by Board member Fredricks. Voice Vote, unanimous aye.

Reconvene

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:14pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Tyler, Secretary

Date