



CHICAGO VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLSM

powered by K12

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

Thursday September 18, 2008 6:45 pm
@ Merit School of Music
38 S. Peoria, Chicago, IL 60607

Call to Order

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

New Board officers selected at the Annual meeting preceding this meeting.

Head of School Report

Susan Stagner, K12 Regional VP, announced that HOS Jeanne Busch resigned effective September 16th. K 12 will commence an extensive search for a replacement for Head of School. Shaunna Finley, CVCS Operations Manager, and Raquel Herrera-Byrne, Academic Administrator will share HOS responsibilities during the interim. Stagner, Finley and Byrne have met with CPS to discuss HOS change.

There will be a parent meeting to announce HOS Busch's resignation at the Crowne Plaza at 7:30 pm, September 22nd. There will also be an Illuminate announcement and information, also the evening of the 22nd, to also help answer any questions regarding the transition of Head of School.

Operations Report- Finley reported that CVCS is 9 slots away from 599 students. K-3 has 9 slots left. High school and middle school is full. There is one staff vacancy but it should be filled soon. The upcoming activity is the 2007-2008 audit starting September 22-27, 2008.

Academic Report: Raquel Herrera-Byrne, Academic Administrator, was introduced by Susan Stagner. Ms Byrne comes to CVCS with 13 years of experience working for Chicago Public Schools, and a master's degree in administration.

CVCS has just received the ISAT results and CVCS has met reading and math standards across the board, but not the writing standards,. Grade 5 in reading CVCS surpassed the state's requirement. 'EXPLORE' testing, the CPS standardized Career planning tool, will begin next Monday (Sept. 22).

Bargon asked if there is a teacher analysis of the ISAT to see whether there is a learning success pattern. Elizondo asked if CVCS is going to analyze the Scantrons? Ms. Bryne states that K12 has already begun to analyze the Scantrons. Ms. Stagner thinks the Scantrons should be piloted through the virtual system, as most K 12 schools do, rather than taking Learning Center time for the testing. The concern is that parents may have a tendency to coach their student during the on-line testing.

Ms. Stagner passed out a copy of the “Blended Learning: The Convergence of Online and Face to Face Education”, an article that features several K 12 schools including CVCS.

Treasurer’s Report

Preliminary Financials for August 2008 were distributed.

Bargon and Remmert spoke with John Bione regarding the first year deficit forgiveness K-12 agreed to. Board agreed that for 2008-09 clear specific instructions about the forgiveness and debt should be declared. The projected budget for every year will assume breakeven, with the current 22% management fee to K12 per contract agreement.

Board Business

2008-2009 Organizational Chart distributed.

CVCS ‘s arrangement for CPS to support the special needs students is not indicated on the chart. Secretary Elizondo would like a few more details for each person on the org chart to know what they actually do.

2008-09 Learning Center Focus

Ms. Byrne reported that the day has been extended by 15 minutes to ensure students receive the maximum learning experience. Focus of the Learning Center is Language Arts and Math. Ms Byrne stated that Learning Center classrooms are set up to use the differentiated instruction approach. (Differentiated instruction addresses individual learning needs and adjusts instruction to fit the skills and experience level of each student in a classroom.)

Member Elizondo is worried that CVCS is doing the opposite of what parents came to CVCS for - grouping students according to their skill level. Elizondo would like to see how parents would feel about decision to put their students in multi-level classroom situations for the 2 hours they are at the Learning Center.

Byrne assures the Board that research shows that differentiated instruction within a multi skill level classroom is one of the most effective approaches to educating students.

Secretary Elizondo asks if CVCS is going to increase the Elluminate sessions for students that may need more help. No specific plans mentioned.

Board Responsibilities (draft doc)

Secretary Elizondo explains that she has been working on this document based on the Service Agreement with K12 and the materials K12 distributed in March to Board members. She would like feedback from other board members when she sends the next draft.

Student Handbook distributed to the Board.

Audit Sub-Committee

Bargon and Woltman agreed to be on the Audit sub-committee.

Board Resignation

Treasurer Remmert submitted his formal resignation at 7:55 p.m. on September 18, 2008, citing personal commitments and lack of time to commit to Board.

Board Recognition

The board recognized Remmert's resignation. President Martin commends Remmert's for his time and efforts on behave of CVCS as Board member and Treasurer.

Future agenda items

- Finance committee
- Audit committee
- Amendment to current management agreement regarding any additional revenues to K12 should a significant surplus remain at the end of an academic year.
- Planning for growth 600 to 1200 students.

Adjourn

Bargon motions to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., seconded by McCann. Bargon, aye; Remmert, aye; McCann, aye; Woltman, aye; Hawkins, aye; Elizondro, aye; Martin, aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted.

Catherine Elizondo
 Catherine Elizondo Date

Board Members Present

- Rudy Martin, President
- Mary T. McCann, Vice President
- Benjamin T. Remmert, Treasurer
- Tina Hawkins, Secretary
- Andrew Woltman, Director
- Kevin Bargon

Catherine Elizondo

Others Present

- Jeanne Busch, Head of School
 - Rinda Allison, Legal Council
 - Dominique Brown
 - Other
- Pam Tabor
 Susanne Stagner
 Raquel Byrne
 Shauuna Finley