

NOCCS Board Minutes
November 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm

Attendees: Mia Birdsong, Steve Fox, Ann Gordon, Sahra Halpern, Tracy Hanna, Erica Mackie, Kristen McClusky, Iliana Phirippidis, Rachel Venning, Pamela Rich, Carolyn Gramstorf

Public Comment

NOCCS parent and former Board Chair Susan Jones made public comments regarding gender balance in the classroom. Specifically, she asked that as part of the upcoming charter renewal process, NOCCS petition OUSD to change the lottery process to allow for better gender balance in the classroom. She referenced the impact of gender imbalance (one of 4 girls in a class with 21 boys) on her older daughter's educational experience and attributed it to one of the major reasons she did not stay at NOCCS for middle school. If the Board was to make this request to OUSD and it was rejected, Susan offered to help support actions needed to appeal OUSD's decision.

Ann asked if other charter schools in California have lotteries that allow for gender balancing. Susan did not know the answer.

Erica thanked Susan for her comments and said the Board would respond within 30 days.

Minutes

Edits were made to the minutes from the October 15, 2014 meeting.

Mia moved to approve the minutes with the recommended edits. Erica seconded the motion.

8- yes, 0-no, 3-abstentions

Brokerage Account Resolution

Rachel presented a revised version of the 10/15/14 resolution to change signatories on the NOCCS brokerage account. This revised version removes Peter Trublood as a signatory.

Mia Birdsong moved to approve the revised resolution. Tracy seconded the motion.

9-yes, 0-no, 2-abstentions

Finance/Budget Revisions

Rachel presented the revised 2014-2015 budget, which has net income of \$17K. The October budget came in as predicted. Board members asked questions about the budget including the restricted fund, how expenses get submitted, and Title 2 funding levels. Rachel and Carolyn responded to these questions.

Rachel moved to approve the proposed budget. Erica seconded the motion.

11-yes, 0-no, 0 abstentions

Executive Director's Report

Carolyn presented the charter renewal timeline. A draft school performance report will be submitted to OUSD on November 25, 2015 and shared with the staff and Board. OUSD will conduct a renewal site inspection on December 2 and 3. A revised school performance report will be discussed at the December board meeting and then the final school performance report and charter renewal documents

will be submitted to OUSD on January 14, 2015. A public hearing will be held 60-90 days later, date to be determined.

Carolyn presented available California State Testing data for the current charter term (2010-2013). There has been a decline in scores for English Language Arts for K-5 and an increase in 6-8. There are also achievement gaps for specific subgroups – African Americans, economically disadvantaged, Hispanic and disabled students. These gaps are smaller than comparable OUSD schools. There has also been a decrease in math scores for both K-5 and 6-8, and there is an achievement gap for the same subgroups. Carolyn discussed possible factors for these gaps and strategies underway to address them.

The Board asked questions and discussed possible solutions including presenting the data to teachers and investigating factors and solutions with them as well as the need for stronger data systems to enable regular data reviews.

As soon as the charter renewal application is submitted, Carolyn will further investigate and address additional solutions to these achievement gaps.

Strategic Plan

Pam presented the summarized categories of the strategic plan work from the Board offsite in October. The Board further refined these categories. The Strategic Planning committee will develop a final draft for discussion at the December Board and inclusion with the charter renewal documents. A final strategic plan is not due until March.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.