

North Oakland Community Charter School (NOCCS)  
**General Board Meeting**  
@ 6:00 pm November 28, 2012  
1000 42nd Street, Oakland

Our Overarching Role as Board Members:

*Serve as pro-active stewards of NOCCS' sustainability and growth, in alignment with its guiding principles*

Outcomes

Better understand the current state of the school  
Make progress on strategic priorities; fine-tune implementation strategies  
Address emerging policy issues  
Agree on next steps

AGENDA

Present: Ken Sommer, Wendy Barry-Owen, Erica Mackie, Carolyn Gramstorff, Jay Weil, Kristin Zimmerman, Li-Mei Johnson, Jenny Bond, Kate Hayes, Josh Newman, Victoria Folks, Michael Schwartz, Miles

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm

**Public Comment**

- Erica clarifies process for public comment
- Erin Collom presents grievance against an employee.
- A group of parents were present at the meeting to voice their support for Erin Collom. These included: Patricia Lawrence, Julene Freitas, Yirska Sardinias-Pompa (parent of a 7th and 5th grader) was upset because her 5th grader witnessed the incident and was questioned about it by the administration and she was not notified by the school. Norita Tadeo, Vicky Riggins, Doug Hellison and Andrea DuBrow were also present in support of Erin's grievance against Mark Rosenthal.
- Parents discussed their belief that clear policies need to be in place so that families know how to proceed when specific incidents occur. It was suggested that a PTA organization be formed and given professional responsibilities along with the Office of the Director and the Board. It was stated that Carolyn has many strengths but is overwhelmed. The school is growing and the parents do not feel that the needs of families are being heard by school leadership.
- .Erica restated process for Public comment and thanks the parents for their comments. Parents leave meeting and the Board proceeds with agenda.

**Approval of Minutes**

September minutes passed with unanimous vote pending date change from June 30 to September 19.

Ken motions to approve minutes for October 17. 12 approved, 1 abstention, no opposed  
Motion to approve October 30th minutes by Ken 11 approved, 2 abstentions, no opposed

## **Finance Committee Report**

### **Vote to approve Audit**

- Nothing came up in the audit it was same as end of year.

Jay states that we can manage down to lowest profit we can show to push some income into the following year, while waiting for OUSD special ed. bill.

Bottom line reported was same as what was reported at the end of the year.

Jay made motion to approve the Audit, seconded by Michael. 1 abstention 12 approved.

### **Discussion and Vote regarding receiving grants from PEC**

- PEC exists for benefit of NOCCS and the state has no issue with this structure.

Current counsel is stating that we should keep this structure.

- Li-Mei states that the Board needs to make a decision about this not based on the Guarantors

Jay discusses the fact that the Guarantors will not allow us to change lease so we will be paying 27K/month which is \$6,500 more than planned and we can receive this amount each month from PEC

- Erica states that she doesn't think it would be prudent for the school to continue receiving money from PEC if Board does not feel comfortable with idea. There was no recommendation from the Finance committee.

- Board engages in thorough discussion and asks questions. Li-Mei states that she believes there is risk involved and that the original arrangement was made to get the SP740 and receive the money back. It was discussed that if the risk were to materialize we would lose SP740. Josh states that he does not see that we are more at risk than gain. We have a letter from a lawyer that states in their opinion this is legal. Does not see the difference between hanging on to the money for our benefit or giving it back to us for our benefit.

Carolyn shares that historically SP740 was set up because schools would never be able to own a building and that there is some knowledge at state levels that this was set up for schools.

Kristen asks for clarification on why we would be getting that money back when the guarantors have us paying the higher rent to help pay down the mortgage.

Jay responds that if money did not go back to NOCCS it still sits there for the charter

Li-Mei-not sure she agrees with PEC plan in the first place. Looking at whole cycle of money coming back to us was always a concern. She stated that she thinks the state could come back for money.

Jay-what about the money going to charter? Is that still risky?

Erica shares Li-Mei's concerns

- Erica asks for a counter option to be presented if we are uncomfortable with this plan.

Jay states that we would be going against legal counsel if we decide not accept this form of revenue which is greatly beneficial to our budget and makes our budget work.

Jay states that we could conceivably try to explore sources of revenue and postpone decision making on this issue for a couple of months because we are not in need of the cash.

Michael motioned to vote. Seconded by Victoria to allow PEC to give us grants

8 approved

1 opposed

2 abstained

Passed

### **Update on Refinancing**

The Board needs financials from LLC/PEC--transitions in leadership

Erica asks if this impacts the capital campaign. Jay does not believe it does.

Opportunity is still there some risk with interest rates.

Reports will be complete soon

### **Budget Update including SB740 and Prop 30**

Board reviews Interim Financial Report

Projecting contingency of \$25K which is almost twice as much as what we approved.

Summer camp generated \$4k profit and 8K of donated money was taken out of next year's budget and placed in this year.

Board certifies the budget.

### **Education Report**

Carolyn presented a report outlining admissions preference policy and its impact on enrollment of neighborhood students

- Over last 2 years percentage increased from 17% to 29%. This includes all students not just the ones who received the preference. Preference only given to kindergarten applicants
- Santa Fe closed and our new school was going to be Emerson. We requested that we get to preference Emerson and Hoover, which are an equal number of blocks away from us.
- We received letter from OUSD giving preference to our charter and we will be receiving both of those zones.

The Board discussed a variety of Lottery preference options. Michael Schwartz and Jenny Bond volunteered to work with Carolyn to further discuss this issue and will return to the Board with a recommendation or range of options to be voted on in the December meeting.

### **UC Berkeley Board Fellows**

Report by Board Fellows on their chosen project

Erica, Ken and Li-Mei and Carolyn will talk and approve deliverables for projects

### **Development Committee Update**

#### **Update on Capital Campaign,**

Most critical piece is to make sure that Board is 100% behind Campaign. What can you do for campaign right now? What do you feel you can do for the life of the campaign? Looking for higher level prospects.

#### **Annual Fundraising Progress to Date**

Wendy will be pulling numbers together every month to create a NOCCS fundraising report

She passed out November's report for the Board to review:

- Fundraising events have been successful. These include: Walkathon and the NOCCStoberfest
- The Annual Fund was officially kicked off and will run through the month of December
- New Ventures Group held a house concert and an art fundraiser. 4 music events and 2-3 car washes are upcoming.
- \$50,993 has been raised toward the \$180,000 year end goal.

### **Vote on Revised Appointed Board Member Admissions Preference Policy**

Board will revisit next meeting

**Conflict of Interest Policy**

Need to re-approve as part of our annual reporting to OUSD

Erica moves to approve conflict of interest policy as it is stated

Michael seconds the motion

11 approve

1 abstention

Approved

Meeting Adjourned 8:10 pm

**Closed Session:** Briefing about personnel issues