

NOCCS Special Board Meeting Minutes
April 23 2014, 6:00 pm
1000 42nd Street, Oakland

Present: Carolyn Gramstorff, Mia Birdsong, Erica Mackie, Pam Rich, Ann Gordon, Steve Fox, Coriander Melious , Adam Howell, Jenny Bond, Wendy Barry-Owen, Kate Hayes, Rachel Venning, Victoria Folks, Laura Geduldig

Called to order: 6:05

Public comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Kate asked about address in heading because meeting took place at OSA
Ann Gordon moved to approve the minutes with change of address
Rachel Venning seconded
11 approved

FTO Update: Wendy and Sarah Thomas shared that they were at the board meeting representing a 5 member planning council. They distributed informational handouts, including a letter to the board about their intentions for their presentation. The board spent a few minutes reading these documents. Erica asked the presenters to clarify what type of questions they were seeking. Wendy responded that they hoped the board would primarily focus on the proposed FTO bylaws. Carolyn recognized and commended the group for their work. She asked about the meaning of “new family welcome”. Omar shared that the intention was to set up new families with existing families. Wendy added that this could also include doing the roster. Mia shared that she knows there has been a before school social event. Wendy stated that there were some questions about the bylaws and that some things have already been updated.

Wendy shared that the reason for membership dues was to support childcare during movies so that all of the membership is supporting everyone so that they can bring their kids. She also shared that when there are membership fees you feel more committed. Mia responded that she understood that, initially, this was not so much a member organization but more of a support body for the school and that everybody would be a member. Wendy shares that this is not typical of most schools. Mia responds that most of those schools don't have a Board of directors and that their primary focus is fundraising. Carolyn shared that as a board member and director, this issue holds a potential dilemma. She encouraged the FTO to come back and reflect on how things are going. Sarah stated that the bylaws can be changed at any time. Coriander asked if in past experience it was necessary to have this strict structure to promote participation. She stated that she has been at schools that did not have this type of structure and there was total parent participation. Sarah shared some of the research that this planning group completed when creating the bylaws. Wendy added that when people are new to the community they don't know where they can access information and that the FTO can provide this service to families. Coriander responded that she liked the idea of a place for families to go for information but wondered if they were willing to include all families.

Erica paused the discussion due to time constraints. She asked the board if they were willing to vote on the bylaws or if they needed additional information and discussion. The board discussed. Kate asked why there is a rush and the FTO cannot go on as they have this past year. Wendy and Sarah shared that they are ready to hand this responsibility off. Carolyn shared that she feels that the bylaws provide a

starting place. This is a framework that should bring everyone closer in collaboration. There might need to be something built in that forces this collaboration. She shared that she was comfortable with the proposed bylaws. Kate presented a worry that things won't be fully developed. Sarah responded that they have been working for a full year on this project. Mia shared that her concern is about language and messaging and that at NOCCS there is an equity issue about who has a sense of ownership and who does not. She stated that she would like to see language that specifically talks about representation. Erica asked to take the temperature of the board regarding a vote on the bylaws. Carolyn moved that we approve the election of four officers to the FTO and that we designate a sub committee made up of parents and teachers to collaborate and provide additional feedback regarding the language. The final set of bylaws will be approved by the June meeting.

Mia seconded

12 approved

1 abstention

1 opposed

Passed

Development Update: Elizabeth Cushing introduced herself as a NOCCS parent and co-chair of the capital campaign. Steve Fox shared notes from David Bond who could not make the meeting.

The spring auction: attendance was down a little bit but it was one of the best auctions. The auction grossed \$30k, which was just short of the projected \$35k.

There is a spring festival on Sunday, May 18 and a NOCCS night out on May 30.

Capital Campaign-They think that donors will forgive the \$50k. First house party made \$13k.

David is finishing up with existing pledges and they are now accepting used cars.

The current number is \$99k left on the debt of which they believe \$50k will be forgiven if we have the \$49k by June 30.

Steve states that he is looking for the Board to raise \$7,500 in the next two months. Elizabeth provided a brief fundraising training for board members.

Carolyn challenges board members to call half their list before the next meeting.

Laura Geduldig arrived during the training.

Finance Update: Rachel presents that NOCCS is filing a 990 that shows revenues and expenses. This is the same information that we saw in the fall audit. Rachel asked the board for questions.

Rachel motions that we approve the 990

Mia seconded the motion

Pam asked for clarification of what the board is approving. Carolyn explained. This has been reviewed by our treasurer and was prepared by our auditor.

Rachel motioned that we approve the 990

14 approved

1 abstention

EdTech Presentation: Carolyn introduced Bryce as our new EdTech finance person and reviewed the transition from Beth to EdTech. Bryce shared that they would be attending board meetings quarterly and is focusing on the transition.

Carolyn introduced Ben who is joining NOCCS as our Prop 39 funder. His first contract is \$5k and does not need board approval. Ben presented a powerpoint that discussed prop 39. This proposition involves

energy savings for the school. Goals of program are to reduce energy use, reduce operating expense and to increase comfort. Ben thoroughly discussed this program.

Total planning funds (year one only) \$50k

Annual project funds: \$50k

Prop 39 program duration: 5 years

Total funds available over five years: \$250k

Peralta Energy planning proposal \$4,400

Funds remaining for projects: \$44k

Possible changes:

LED lighting

Dual pane windows

HVAC re-commissioning

Building control system

Additional solar panels

Ben shared that he is working with NOCCS to get us Prop 39 funds. Carolyn shares that NOCCS is contracted to work with Ben for phase 1 and will review and make decisions about further phases.

Beth reported that she is leaving NOCCS in good hands with EdTech. She reported that as of the end of March we will finish the year with \$93k net. It looks like this year NOCCS will be paid 100% of 2013-14 SP740. NOCCS may be able to carry some PEC funding forward into next year. Carolyn shared that we have revenues and expenses for Common Core fund that have not been spent. They are trying to spend down this money but it could be used next year. Carolyn has begun doing preliminary work on budget model. She is prioritizing employee benefits and some increases in teacher salary. The board thanked Beth for all her work with NOCCS.

Director's Update: Carolyn presented a power point that reviewed work she, the charter renewal and executive committees have been thinking and working on over the past months regarding the future of NOCCS and the idea of replication. She shared the research and organizations she has consulted with since November and the early stages of compiling relevant research and data from various sources. Carolyn also discussed questions that have surfaced throughout this process and described the need in this geographic area based on multiple public school closures.

Advantages of/Rational for Replication:

Increased administrative capacity and efficiencies

Increased opportunities to pursue increased funding opportunities that are not available to single site charters

Increased/accelerated diversification of student body, which will allow us to serve more students from our local neighborhood and qualify for more funding.

Increased opportunities and sustainable roles for staff

Expand programmatic offerings for students by sharing resources

Improved programming by providing direct need and the capacity to explicitly develop, document and improve our education program and model that can lead to improved performance as well as additional funding opportunities.

Local opportunities for sites-Santa Fe and Anna Yates and NOCCS track record in North Oakland

Play an important social justice role in this community-provide access to this model to more Oakland families.

Carolyn moved on to discuss potential resources to support replication. She listed proposed resources needed for start up:

Board leadership and support

Part to full time Executive Director for 14-15

Additional part to full time instructional leader for 14-15

Increased Development Manager/Consultant Time by 15-16

Community Organizer(s) by 15-16

Carolyn presented possible risks of replication.

The Board listened, discussed thoroughly and asked questions

Carolyn asked for a board member to volunteer leading the search for a new tenant. Carolyn will ask for volunteer in the Weekly Blast.

Mia thanked the Board Fellows for their time and work. This was their last meeting.

Personnel Committee update: Tabled

Board Election Update: Jenny asked for names of possible external candidates.

Community Committee Update: Tabled

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 pm