

LCEFC/RMDS Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 27, 2009
1921 Youngfield St.
Golden, CO 80401
APPROVED

Present: Eileen Kratzer (President)
David Wilcox (Vice President)
Stephanie Carson (Staff Representative)
Amy Novotny (Treasurer; Staff Representative)
Lisa Hann (Educational Representative)
Christine Pendley (Secretary; Parent Representative)
Kelly Baldwin (Staff Representative)

Absent: Michael Germano (Community Representative)
Steve Hoefler (Business Representative)

Guests: Janet Dickinson (RMDS Director)
Bob Hughes (Hughes Consulting)
Alison Talbert (RMDS Business Manager)
Gwen Walton (Secretary)
Rob Gerk
Lara Balczarek

Interpreters: Lynda Rimmel, Tricia Frank

Meeting called to order 6:20 pm.

Michael Germano and Steve Hoefler have both officially resigned from the Board. It is Eileen Kratzer and Amy Novotny's last day to serve on the Board for RMDS. The Board currently has four vacant positions that need to be filled.

Rob Gerk expressed his interest in joining the Board as either the Business or Deaf Community Representative. Lara Balczarek expressed her interest in joining the Board as an Educational Representative.

Clerc Fund Report/Audit:

Amy supplied the Board with a copy of the "List of Funds & Balances" from the Clerc Fund. The blanks on the spreadsheet are because the money from the grant has been spent. Prioritization of the needs of the school is important; therefore, the Board discussed fundraising should be non-specific and be deposited in the Clerc fund. The Board discussed advertising fundraising as "for the building/general fund" which would allow the Board to make the decision as to where to apply the monies. Our current efforts have been applied to the Building Fund.

Additionally, it was recommended that the Clerc Fund be audited because it doesn't reconcile with the bank statement. Amy would be willing to help with the audit even though she is no longer serving on the Board.

The Board has to monitor the Learning Center (LC) because the Clerc Fund has to reimburse the General Fund if the LC goes in the red.

Stephanie moves that the Clerc Fund be audited this year.

Amy seconds

Discussion – none

All in Favor – Motion passes

Amy and Eileen will handle finding an auditor. Amy feels the account should be set up online also in order for the treasurer to be able to view the account regularly. Eileen would like a debit card to be added to the Clerc Fund for purchases that cannot be invoiced.

Discussion took place about keeping or getting rid of the credit card machine because of the fees associated with using it. It was agreed that the machine should stay because of the ease of use and people tend to donate/purchase more if they are able to charge it to a credit card.

Charter Renewal Committee:

Janet recommends having a committee to complete the charter school application renewal. This need to be community guided and not only internally developed. It is due the first week of January. The committee members will be decided later.

New Board Handbook distributed. This version is more condensed than the previous one. It includes the new approved policies, but does not yet have updated educational policies. Other items included are the strategic plan (which needs to be renewed this year), Board bylaws, minutes from the prior year,

David Wilcox arrived 7:10 pm.

Director's Report:

Janet reported on staff professional development based on the "Fish Philosophy" and the Seattle Fish Market. Staff reported on the activities they did during orientation related to the philosophy and improving the work environment.

Janet reported about the teacher mentoring program that Nancy B. is enacting this year. She also reported the focus during professional development this year students will respond to texts.

Janet announced new positions: Jeff Beatty is the Middle School Teacher, Nicole Beatty is the Counselor. She announced the new roles of Reading Specialist and ASL Specialist for struggling students.

Janet reported on outreach activities. Janet has been collaborating with a Sorenson representative. They will be donating flat-screen TVs for each classroom and sponsoring fundraisers. They have indicated they are willing to help in the RMDS in the future.

Janet reported that they are still in the process of analyzing the budget for the Learning Center and will report on it at the end of September.

Capital Campaign:

Bob Hughes gave a report regarding the new school efforts. Bob reported that the Site Selection Committee, a sub committee of the Building Team, has been searching for property. They have narrowed the sites down to 4 options. The process has been thorough and confidential. The committee will present prospective sites to the Board at a later date.

Bob Hughes reported he is filling committee seats now for the Capital Campaign. There are twelve different committees, and the goal is to recruit more help during *Back to School Night*. There will be a follow-up meeting on September 22, 2009.

Bob Hughes reported that based on the most recent awards from the BEST Grant program it seems RMDS has a good chance of receiving awards. RMDS is planning on applying for the grant for the next cycle, for which we need to notify the school district of our intentions.

Amy Novotny moves that The Laurent Clerc Foundation supports Janet in writing a letter to Jeffco notifying them that RMDS plans to apply for the BEST Grant through CDE.

David W. seconds the motion

No discussion

All in favor - Motion passes

Bob H. reported that the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has stimulus money available for educational programs. Specifically, IDEA now has funding available for capital construction. The guidelines for obtaining this money are not yet spelled out.

Bob H. informed the Board that there is a grant with 65 million dollars worth of funding for innovative educational programs. He feels the RMDS could qualify. There are also start-up grants available if RMDS is approved for the High School Charter. Alison, Janet, and Bob are writing several operating, specialty, and building grants. RMDS was awarded \$2,000 from the Polis Foundation for general operating costs.

Bob H. reported on the Open Houses that RMDS will be having weekly during September in order to spread awareness about the school. Board members are encouraged to invite people and attend these Open Houses.

RMDS has been taking advantage of current technology during the capital campaign with an updated website, Facebook, and the ability to receive donations on-line.

Bob Hughes clarified the possibility of contingencies and waivers with the BEST Grant application. Also, he has been advised to build the entire building including the High School from the start, and not postpone that addition. There is potential money from the Walton Foundation depending on the High School Charter application, and possible money from the Daniel's Fund. Bob is continuing his research and collaborations with CDE.

Eileen reported that the boundaries and responsibilities of the School Board, and Building Corporation, and the Building Team need to be clarified. The Board discussed electing Eric Pendley as the President of the Building Corporation to replace Melissa Peterson.

Amy Novotny moves to approve Eric Pendley as the President of the Building Corporation.

Lisa seconds the motion

No discussion

All in favor - Motion passes

Budget 2008-09:

Janet reported that the budget started -\$95,000 and ended \$78,000 in the positive. RMDS currently has 42.8 FTE. In order to cover the current budget, RMDS needs 45 FTE at \$124.81 excess cost rate.

Approval of the Minutes: Two names misspelled Tricia Frank and Steve Hoefler on page one. Chris Pendley will make the corrections. Minutes are approved as corrected.

Administrative Salary Chart presented by Alison. Alison explained that she created the chart based on salaries from other charter schools and deaf and hard of hearing programs. The schedule she created is within median ranges of salaries for similar positions.

Eileen Kratzer moves that Christine Pendley become the interim president of the RMDS School Board.

Amy seconds

All in favor - Motion passes

Executive Session:

Amy moves to enter Executive Session at 9:39 pm.

Board moves out of Executive Session at 9:54 pm.

Amy Novotny moves that Rob Gerk and Laura Balczarek join the RMDS Board as Representatives.

Stephanie seconds

All in favor - Motion passes

The Board moves back into Executive Session at 10:00 pm.

David Wilcox moves the Board exit Executive Session at 10:35 pm.

David Wilcox moves we increase the Director's salary to \$78,000, the Business Manager to \$34,500, the Principal's Secretary to \$30,250, and the ARC position salary to \$61,160 respectively beginning the 2009-2010 school year.

Lisa Hann seconds
All in favor – Motion Passes

Meeting adjourned 10:40 pm.