

Academy of Science and Design
Minutes of the Board Meeting
March 10, 2009

Present: Kent Glossop, Chris Franklin, Peter Batula, Jennifer Starr, Michael Fishbein, John Slater, Michael White, Jill Cane, Rebecca Paquette and Ellen Mohnkern. Izuh Obinelo was contacted by phone and participated via conference call to achieve quorum.

Late arrivals: Shanti Nair , Christine Fulford.

Quorum of 7 was incomplete at first, Chris made contact with Izuh Obinelo via teleconference, and Kent opened meeting at 6:50pm.

Introductions, including: John Slater, the Dean of Arts and Sciences at Daniel Webster College is an environmental scientist by training, is currently creating an ‘environmental sustainability’ degree program at DWC. Expects to pass committee next year. Runs Envirothon, a competition sponsored at North American level by Canon

Announcement that Michael Fishbein, one of founding members of ASD, is leaving the area to take on the new role of presidency of one of the campuses of Antioch University in Ohio.

Michael Fishbein moved to accept minutes, approved.

Strategic Planning Report:

- Director search
 - o Currently have about 16 resumes, four interviews to be set up for next Friday, March 20th. Followup with seven others for further details also. Have hour long interviews, 15 minutes between for followup discussion, expect 1-2 out of initial round, then bring back those for interviews with entire staff and other stakeholders.
 - o Four clearly have attributes desirable for ASD director
 - o Suggestion made to invite candidates to Spotlight on Learning
 - o With info known to date, we know there are two very strong candidates already...
 - o First round interviews on Friday, second interview within a week
- Space for school
 - o Space for next year - committed to this space for 60K for next year. Was a three year lease, 09-10 year is last year.
 - o Two other options to meet expansion goal - expand to other area on this floor
 - o Key issue for students, no sports, etc., people do not even apply, is an issue for current students too. Considering move to other building.
 - o Presume can fit 80 max in current space. We need at least two more classrooms
 - o Need more staffing no matter what
 - o Chris to generate detailed analysis of various student levels revenues and expenses, if we push up to 110 -120, where revenues MIGHT exceed expenses
- Should get through May of 2010 if stay in current space
 - o Already have 60 applications
 - o Planning for the worst, hoping for the best

- Still actively pursuing options, and still have students wanting to get in
- Write to people on the finance committee to support HB140
- Peter Batula - discussion about current eco stim package and potential effect education. The money from federal is being applied in many areas, not certain at this time..
- KG - have to work with money we believe will be in place to be conservative
- external fund-raising has been far short of projected due to poor financial environment - has limited plans for ASD as result.

Proposed Timeline for expansion decision: hopefully by next board meeting, more concrete lease terms are needed and more comprehensive analysis of student body size and related expense level.

7:20 Shanti Nair arrives

MF - 2 levels, financial implications and quality? Implications. How many “moving pieces” can the ASD organization sustain without risking damage to itself - e.g., if students/faculty are happy with space, .

KG stay without expanding is default scenario

Chris - week from tomorrow, perhaps special board meeting on Thurs March 19th to review more concrete information

MF - some advantage to being seen as a selective institution.

Jenn - there is an advantage to staying here and staying small to be in better position to firm up all of the open items. Staying small would allow us to take the time so next year, high on the list would be to implement the high school curriculum that is currently being worked on.

Kent - stay small by default, but if opportunities to expand arise, they should be met. Key is new director who can work with the range of open items. If finances line up, etc. then can consider the expansion, doubling in size goal, etc.

Lottery timeline is the 20th, all applicants interviewed and assessment tests schedule. Process is to draw applicant names, invite ? And create wait list for the rest.

Chris? Should we reschedule lottery for after the special board meeting where more may be known about the space issue, to see if we can accept more students for next year. Very limited,

Jenn Starr suggests that its better to draw as originally scheduled, ASD will appear what it wants to appear as - desirable school. By drawing now, we get the word out, ASD have huge demand but not enough resources to meet the demand...

All rent numbers are indefinite, Chris meeting with lessors tomorrow for firm numbers

Motion: MF proposes that given what we know, which is limited, then can only support the first option, stay without expansion
Board vote on a general direction. Current (emphasized) position is delayed expansion

Michael White seconded, all in favor - resolution passed...

Izuh via phone agrees with motion too.

MF KG? - if we are open, we are open, we are going to have a hole, but under the circumstances, want to dig the smallest hole possible.

Christine, "how to even evaluate the forthcoming changes for teachers is staggering,"

Kent suggests by next board meeting, mid May feels too late to start this process...

Chris and Jill also looking at more effective staff utilization, e.g. teachers staffing homework periods.

This year is two years worth of courses, next year will be three years worth of courses, so staff increase critical...

Kent soliciting any creative options via email...

Admission - 60 applications. Slots for perhaps 20 new students

Curriculum Committee Update

Per Jill - Curriculum Committee - mission statement focus group - reviewed feedback discussed whether revision is warranted, curriculum committee to consider

in depth subject mastery focus - what does it mean, mastery grew into larger discussion about using competencies concept for defining a definition of mastery

third area, is draft sequence of courses for students entering in 7th, teachers have looked, made recommendations, numerous questions and discussions followed.

Draft to be posted in prep for next curriculum committee meeting, in depth discussion still need for further review, Jill requests any and all input from all.

Kent - three major somewhat interdependent issues, space, curriculum, planning?

Participatory aspect is critical but also time consuming -

Jill: Four teachers going to a conference Robert Mosano (sp?) coming to NH, acclaimed speaker discusses about grading and assessment, exciting opportunity for teachers, in Concord.

Query and answer - Original mission statement from Susan Hollins.

Shanti thinks the seminars is one major differentiation of schools, suggests ASD doesn't want want to be out of line with other schools but still that want that ASD uniqueness...

Chris points out we did double the number of extracurricular this year. Lack of space this year is preventing elective choices, causes scheduling constraints..

Fund-raising committee:

Jen 2/3 parents have donated

Jen enough to develop wall of thanks

Chris - add a few thermometers to encourage awareness and perhaps increase participation, especially good for when visitors come to the school.

Chris Grants still issue with 501C3, Lorinda called IRS, they say they are backed up to July.

Chris some grants require audited financial statements - apparently several months wait for firm who has books, only 2-3 firms who really understand charter schools,

Jenn - 'teaching 'grants potential corporation donors connections with corporation donors are all areas being explored..

[Ellen - MAKE THERMOMETERS]

Letters to superintendents of sending districts, is at the signing stage...

State grants NH DOE gets federal grants won't be known until May, actually middle of June....

Administration reports from Chris:

60 viable applications, 3 days before deadline were about 30., very exciting results...

Spotlight for legislators, will change time for next Spotlight to evenings instead, Late April spotlight for NH high tech council,

March 20th is next spotlight, 9am....

Concern if quorum of April 8th meeting....is first night of Passover,

April 1st instead is rescheduled date tentatively, Kent will check with other board members...it is a critical meeting...

Shanthy motions to bring John as member of the ASD board, seconded by Michael white,

asked about desirable term length, two year term suggested by Michael Fishbein due to learning curve,

motion passed....

Grateful thanks extended to Michael Fishbein for his incredible service to our school in many roles...

Minutes courtesy of Ellen Mohnkern