

Academy for Science and Design

Minutes of the Board Meeting

12/16/09

Present: Ellen Mohnkern, Heather Evans, Heather MacDonald, Jennifer Minicucci, Patricia Humphrey, Jack Donovan, Meili Kronenfeld, Thomas Frischknecht, Shanthi Nair, Michael White, Rebecca Paquette, Susan Correia, Kent Glossop.

Absent: Izuh Obinelo, Karen Graham, John Slater, Mary Fries

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 by Chairman, Kent Glossop. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Resignation of Principal and Election of New Principal

- Andy Maloney will resign as of Friday, 12/18.
- David Chauvette, assistant principal, presented his thoughts on the school and answered questions. The Board went into executive session to discuss whether to appoint David interim or permanent director. No minutes were taken.
- The Board unanimously approved David the new permanent director of ASD.

Director's Report

- The schedule for next semester is 85% complete. It adds 5 minutes to the day, has one lunch period to allow for the extra academic class: tech ed.
- The Board should consider the addition of a 6th grade.
- Retention of 8th graders depends on a good marketing policy.
- Open Houses are planned for January 14 and March 18.
- The addition of a guidance counselor is needed (rather than a replacement Assistant Director.)
- There should be a survey of student (and other stakeholder) satisfaction.

Guidance Counselor – a motion was made and approved to proceed with posting/hiring for a guidance counselor rather than an Assistant Director.

Internship Policy was approved as is.

Advisory Board—Formation was approved. Kent will bring a proposed list of members to the next meeting comprised of various community sectors: business, higher education, legislative and fundraising.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee—Mary Fries

- Focus Areas work progressing, including a research methods class.

- Feedback obtained from teachers on Senior Project Policy
- Program of Studies Policy will be ready for May Board meeting.
- Discussions of standards-based curriculum using competency-based grading underway.
- Teachers will provide a list of non-Area of Specialization courses.
- Committee will take charge of curriculum-related Policy items.

Outreach Committee—Jennifer Minicucci

- Press releases on visit to F.L. Wright House and Lego Team first place award.
- Work done on up-dating ASD web site.
- Do we want a gala fundraiser?
- Working on publicity for January Open House.

Fundraising Committee—Patty Humphrey

- Shanthi reported that \$26,000 has been raised from parents so far. Phone bank is ongoing.
- Michael's wife raised \$1500 selling pies before Thanksgiving.
- \$10,000 was raised from winning the Cybersafe challenge.
- The audit must be completed in order for Lorinda to apply for foundation grants. David and Michael will look into this.
- Matt completed the fundraising materials.
- Jill presented a list of names for fundraising purposes. Members will pursue these suggestions and add more names.
- Thomas will pursue using Charleston Commerce as the basis for an on-line store with ASDEF.

Strategic Planning—Jack Donovan

We can get into the black in two years if we get to 200 students fast, emphasize retention, and do a better job of screening students for admission.

A sixth grade would be an easy way to increase numbers. The administration will make a proposal on this at the next meeting.

Jack will give a detailed presentation to the Board at the next meeting.

Policy Committee—Kent Glossop

#1-3 policies are ready for review. Kent will let parents know that Board is working on policies.

The budget is on target. We still need to raise \$90,000.

A motion to add Treasurer, Rebecca Paquette and assistant Treasurer, Michael White as authorized signers of the ASD Fidelity Brokerage account and to remove former Treasurer, Jennifer Starr, was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Humphrey, secretary