

Academy for Science and Design

Minutes of the Board Meeting

June 9, 2010

**Board members and teachers present:** David Chauvette, Kent Glossop, Patty Humphrey, Jack Donovan, Michael White, Sue Correia, Becky Paquette, Thomas Frischknect, Izuh Obinelo, Shanthi Nair, Jennifer Minicucci, Meili Kronenfeld, Heather Evans

**Absent:** John Slater, Karen Graham

Many guests also attended.

David Chauvette, in role as Clerk of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

He called for 15 minutes of comments. Patty Humphrey, Sue Correia and Mary Mattingly all praised and thanked the Board, staff, volunteers, and especially principal, David Chauvette for a successful school year.

Judith Klinghoffer, parent, asked for the expediting of new faculty hiring.

She noted that the on-line charter does not state the newly approved number of board members: 15.

She questioned the beginning and end of Board term dates. It was explained that although Board members renewals are voted in June, new parent terms begin in October to allow for the possible election of new parents to the Board.

Judith questioned the process of elections to the Board, stating a preference for parent and faculty participation in the election of all members, not just parent members. In the form of a motion, this was referred to the Policy Committee for review and possible action.

**Election of Board Members**

John Slater has resigned from the board, to be replaced by another representative from Daniel Webster College.

One member declined to serve a second term: Mary Fries.

The following members were unanimously elected to serve a second term:

Becky Paquette will become an external Board Member.

Kent Glossop, Patty Humphrey, Shanthi Nair, and Michael White will serve again.

### **Election of Officers**

Judith Klinghoffer requested that the policies concerning dates and procedures for the election of officers be posted on Google docs.

The officers elected at the meeting by unanimous vote are as follows:

Chairman—Kent Glossop

At this point, Kent Glossop resumed chairing the meeting.

Vice-chairman—Thomas Frischknect

Secretary—Patty Humphrey

Treasurer—Becky Paquette

Assistant Treasurer—Michael White

### **Selection of Committee Chairmen**

Lisa Marshall was elected to temporary Board membership so that she could serve as the chairman of the Curriculum Committee. Her permanent membership will come up for a vote in October.

The Board voted unanimously to establish a Student Affairs Committee that would develop policy, decide procedures and protect students' rights. The committee chairs

Curriculum—Lisa Marshall

Finance—Kent Glossop

Fundraising-Outreach—Patty Humphrey

Personnel—Thomas Frischknect

Policy—Meili Kronenfeld

Strategic Planning—Jack Donovan

Students' Rights—Becky Paquette

Committee members will be determined later, though Sue Correia will continue as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Finance member.

## **Director's Report—David Chauvette**

Solidscape will not continue its tenancy beyond March, 2011.

Dr. Virginia Barry, Commissioner of Education, will be visiting ASD this Friday.

Everything is ready for graduation, including a band, caps and gowns, and a potluck supper.

The State Board of Education will require all schools to adopt Performance Tracker as a way of establishing school and teacher quality and accountability. ASD has two years to fully implement this program, which will track every student in the state from K-12. The program will require competencies and learning to mastery as part of teacher lesson plans.

Sexting and Facebook texting of sexual messages are occurring. This issue will be referred to the Student Affairs Committee for policy directives.

### **Special Concerns of the Director, as Superintendent**

- The **audit** needs to be completed ASAP. It requires a letter from the Board answering certain questions posed by the auditor.

For reauthorization of the Charter (next year) the books must be up-to-date.

There is a protocol that needs to be followed so that the Board does not violate its fiduciary responsibilities. The Board needs training to its legal rights and responsibilities. The NH School Board Association will train the Board on site.

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer will pursue the audit completion.

- **Personnel Committee Review of Director's Teacher Hiring Process**

The Director hires personnel after due diligence and background checking.

If the Board, as represented by the Personnel Committee, involves itself substantively in the selection process, there are, among, other problems, legal liabilities. In addition, the leadership team is excellent and should be trusted to carry out its functions without undue oversight. The mechanical review of contracts should be the only responsibility of the Personnel Committee in the hiring process and, following that, recommendation to the full Board of the Director's choices.

- **New Board Policies**

Policies adopted by the ASD Board that are not on the template of the School Board Association policy recommendations should be vetted by a lawyer.

- **Micromanagement by the Chairman of the Board**

He dominates the work of almost all the Board committees, which should not be reporting to him, but to the Board as a whole. In addition he sends out many burdensome email directives to the administrative staff.

- **ASD A Special Needs High School**

1. 19% of current students are (high functioning) special needs.
2. 23-25% of these special needs students need IEPs or 504 plans.
3. The faculty needs to be trained to understand its obligation to these students.
4. The Director now functions as the special needs coordinator.

- **Fidelity to the Charter**

The ASD Charter is not a malleable document. Any change in substance must be done with the approval of the State Board.

### **Budget Approval for 2010-11**

The Budget was approved unanimously after a discussion, which included the following points:

- The ratio of costs between administrative and instructional staff is lower than in a traditional public school.
- We are obligated as a public school to provide textbooks to the students.
- Merrimack will test our special ed students. The cost will be referred to their home district.
- Professional Development allocation is small but better than nothing.
- As a result of the passage of the budget, current teachers will get their contracts next week. And hiring of new teachers will begin.

### **Miscellaneous**

- The Board voted to approve Personnel Committee recommendations for teacher hiring without further Board approval for this year's cycle in order to expedite the process.
- Reporting relationships between relatives are not allowed in NH School Board Association policies. Family members can work in the same school, but not in a reporting relationship.

**The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.**

**Yours truly,**

**Patty Humphrey, secretary**