

Academy for Science and Design

Minutes of the Board Meeting

January 19, 2011

Present: David Chauvette, Thomas Frischknecht, Kent Glossop, Joakim Karlsson, Susan Correia, Patty Humphrey, Jack Donovan, Jim Hochberg, Ellen Mohnkern, Bruce Houghton, Stephany Houghton, Judith Klinghoffer, Heather MacDonald

Absent: Izuh Obinelo, Idina Holden, Karen Graham

Thomas Frischknecht called the meeting to order at 6:45.

The minutes were approved as written.

David Chauvette introduced Jen Cava, who presented a preliminary overview of the sixth grade curriculum. Some of the highlights of her presentation were:

- The curriculum would consider the ASD mission and would include a vision, concrete data, and measurable outcomes.
- Math would consist of a preparation for Algebra I, including understanding variables, or Algebra I.
- Students would be sorted by math ability.
- Science would consist of basic concepts across the board, such as atom, cell, etc.
- Other subjects might include global studies, computer literacy, physical education, art, organization of studies, future problem solvers, Lego robotics, and a foreign language.
- Measurement of outcomes might include standardized tests, a portfolio, and placement tests.

Director's Report—David Chauvette

- The Annual Fund has collected \$51,861.42.
- 37% of the parents and 75% of the faculty have contributed.
- Michael White offered to call parents, if needed.
- \$27,000 extra has come in for Adequacy Aid.
- \$67,000 over two years will come in from the Dissemination Grant.
- \$1000 of this will be spent on a camera to document uses of the grant in dissemination activities.
- David is working with a group starting an elementary charter school, Polaris.
- ASD will make an appearance at Barnes and Noble on Saturday, remaining for the whole day.
- DOE Stimulus funds have not yet arrived.
- The school is on target to have a balanced budget through July of this year.
- The present ASD enrollment is 189 students. 2 new students have been accepted, who are skipping 6th grade.
- Seth and David will begin observation of teachers in February.

- There are 119 applicants for next year, distributed among grades 6-9.
- Ellen has a rough draft of the budget for next year for those who want to look it over.
- DOE has said that admission to ASD can be limited to students who would be successful. Students with no expectation of graduation can be refused.
- Snow packet project was reasonably successful.

(The Board went into a closed session to discuss a personnel issue. The minutes for the section are posted separately.)

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee—Kent Glossop

Meeting has been rescheduled for next week.

Personnel Committee—Susan Correia

- Sarah Houghton and Idina Holden have been working on a proposal for Director Evaluation.
- Teacher bonuses: The five returning teachers will be eligible for bonuses of approximately \$1000 each, at the director's discretion. Criterion will be positive progress in moving toward teaching to mastery.
- **A tentative plan for a Teacher of the Year award is in progress.**

Approval of Personnel Policies—Susan Correia

The Board approved the following policies:

GBGAA—HIV AIDS-approved 6-1.

GBEC—Drug Free workplace unanimous

GBEA—Staff Ethics unanimous

GBE—Employee Rights and Responsibilities unanimous

GBCD Background Investigations unanimous

Public Comment

The Campbell Letter

The letter stated that the goals iterated in the Charter are not being met in practice.

David was asked to comment on the substance. His points follow:

- Faculty is young and inexperienced.
- They tend to fall back on lecture format.

- The issue of project-based learning will be resolved as the school grows.

Jack Donovan commented that the ASD Charter is an outline of aspirations and goals for the school.

Joakim Karlsson moved that the Board have a meeting to look at the Charter and assess if we are moving in the right direction. This motion was approved.

Surveys of parents and students will be available before the meeting.

The Chairman will write a response to Mr. Campbell telling him of the plan to have a meeting about the Charter and where the school is in relation to it. After that meeting, a fuller response to Mr. Campbell's concerns will be written. This was proposed as a motion and approved by the Board.

Judith Klinghoffer recommended that we present an accurate picture to incoming parents of what the school offers at the present time.

The Houghton and Klinghoffer letters

- The physics teacher is not teaching physics. The Houghtons have withdrawn their son from the physics class. Judith Klinghoffer is considering the same action.
- There has only been one physics lab this semester. Last year there was a lab every week.
- It would be better not to offer the class than to set the students up for failure.
- In the pre-calculus course, the teacher is teaching every other chapter and the other chapters have to be studied by the students on their own because the teacher got so far behind at the beginning of the year.
- Students may be so far behind and confused that they will not be eligible for advanced AP calculus next year.
- Something has to be done to give the teacher time or help to teach every chapter in class.
- The snow packets were so demanding that students spend the entire day inside working on them and well into the evening.

Kent Glossop suggested and Joakim Karlsson moved that we ask the Director to come up with options for solving the problem in the pre-calculus class in the next 48 hours. These could include using existing resources or additional resources. The Board may meet in a special session to resolve this problem in the next week. This motion was unanimously approved.

Parents will be notified if and when a meeting is scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Patty Humphrey, secretary