

## Doctors Charter School Board Minutes 01-21-10

---

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Bill Heffernan at 5:35 PM.

Present: Chair B. Heffernan, Vice-chair J. Lutton, Secretary A. Burch, E. Bonet, R. Bernstein, H. Davis, A. Harke, D. Kleinman, J. McCoy, C. Morris, A. Silbert

Absent: Treasurer E. D'An, J. Harris-Looby

Reflection: Dr. Lutton offered a reflection from the words of Leonardo DaVinci.

Presentation: Faculty member Kayla Dorsey presented the DCS team of five students who came in first of eighteen competing school teams in the Brain Bowl competition at FIU. In the final round, these students defeated both MAST Academy and Coral Reef. The team's next challenge will be at the State level. Congratulations were expressed by all of the Board to Ms. Dorsey and the students.

Minutes: Mr. Heffernan entertained a motion, seconded and passed, to approve the Board minutes of the December meeting.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Meredith mentioned that interim assessments and mid-term exams were completed. He spent some time explaining the phenomenal success of the first-ever Homecoming Basketball Games held at the Barry Gymnasium. He emphasized how much the event and the accompanying dance helped students develop School spirit. Over 500 people were in attendance and the event had a positive cash flow for DCS athletics. Cooperation with Barry University made the event possible, and Barry staff was very impressed by our students. Board members Alison Harke and Ellen Bonet, who worked on this event, also conveyed their enthusiasm for its success. At this point Kay Brown presented a draft of the School's proposed Fight Song. After hearing the song, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adopt the fight song.

Facility use: Mr. Heffernan introduced the topic of whether to offer space to Miami Dade College's Community Education program; Board members expressed points of view as follows: the program competes with Barry, and DCS students are offered no particular benefit. There is a cost in security and wear and tear on the facility. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to respectfully decline. The Board considered separately the issue of the remaining contract year with Breakthrough Miami, and whether to renew the contract for another three-year term. Discussion centered around wear and tear on the building, deferral of maintenance due to presence of Breakthrough students through the summer and on Saturdays. A motion was made by Jim McCoy, seconded, and then amended by Bill Heffernan to state that the Board will not renew the Breakthrough Miami contract beyond the current term, and to inform Breakthrough as soon as possible that the final year of the contract will be at a higher use fee rate than this year. In further discussion, Mr. Meredith briefed the Board on the complexities of DCS students' ability to obtain credit recovery when observing Miami Dade County School Board rules on summer school. He will continue to study the possibility of summer school.

## Doctors Charter School Board Minutes 01-21-10

---

Oath of office: At this point in the meeting, new Board officers were sworn in by outgoing Chair, Bill Heffernan. The new Chairman, Dr. Alan Silbert, chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Personnel Committee: Reid Bernstein explained that the Personnel meeting has been rescheduled to February 1<sup>st</sup> at noon. There will be no Personnel meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Finance Committee: In the absence of Evelyn D'An, Mr. Heffernan presented that DCS has strong liquidity, and that the cash projections look good. He emphasized the need to build a fund balance. There were no questions.

Strategic Planning: Mr. Heffernan explained the process by which Herbert Marlowe was selected to facilitate a Board retreat for the purpose of developing a strategic plan. Dates have been set as March 12-14. Meanwhile, Mr. Marlowe will place calls to Board members to collect information. As soon as times are known, they will be announced. Next, Mr. Heffernan explained that a newly-issued Parent Survey (set up by Alison Harke two years ago) would be very helpful to the planning process. Board members were directed to email any new questions or changes to Alison by Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Her email is [aharke@harkeclasby.com](mailto:aharke@harkeclasby.com). Parents will receive the incentive of one service hour for completing the survey.

Fundraising Committee: The Golf and Tennis Tournament planning is well underway. Dennis Kleinman emphasized the upcoming meeting, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. He mentioned that we would be discussing approaches to new and existing supporters, and that Board members might want to attend to refresh their skills in making the approach to donors.

PTSA Update: PTSA assisted with the Homecoming event and will be holding the family fundraiser called Festival di Primavera on Friday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. The admission is free; many silent auction items are offered as well as delicious food. All services, lessons, cruises, dining, travel points, and gift certificates of all types are welcome donations.

Adjournment. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

Board comment: Dr. Lutton explained that Kay Brown was able to go forward without a Board Curriculum Committee. Joan stated that she still chairs the Discipline Committee whenever it needs to be called. Reid Bernstein cautioned Board members to complete their two hour governance refresher course. A. Burch will send the link to the course to members once more.

---

Alan Silbert, MD, Chairman

---

Alice Burch, Secretary