

Doctors Charter School Board Meeting Minutes 08-20-09

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Bill Heffernan at 5:03 PM.

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

Apologies for absence: Treasurer E. D'An, R. Bernstein, J. Harris-Looby

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of May 28, 2009.

Resolution: The Chair introduced three new Board members. Ellen Bonet, immediate past President of the DCS PTSA, will represent the high school for the PTSA. Hunt Davis was appointed by Council to serve on the Board, as was Jim McCoy. Both are former Miami Shores Village Council members; Jim McCoy served as mayor. A motion was made and seconded to pass a resolution approving these appointments to the Board. All were in favor and new members were welcomed.

Public comment: As there were individuals who wished to address the Board, the Chair offered open public comment. Mr. Gene Drody spoke on behalf of Bible Chapel, a group which would like to use the DCS Cafeteria on Sundays from 9AM until 1PM throughout the year for services. The Bible Chapel pastor and worship leader were also present and were introduced.

Building Use Policy: After the presentation, Board discussion took place, and it was pointed out that we have yet to develop policy for use of the school by outside groups. The Student Activities Committee was asked to meet to develop a draft of a building usage policy. Chair A. Silbert will work with J. McCoy on this Committee and report back at the September meeting.

EESAC Representatives: Ellen Bonet agreed to be the Board delegate to the EESAC. Pat Duffy agreed once again to be the Board's Community Representative member. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve these appointments to the 2009-10 EESAC Committee.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Meredith stated that the first day for faculty was today, and that a retreat for faculty was held at Miami Dade College North Campus to provide for professional development and give a tour of the facility as well. Dual enrollment offerings will begin at intersession. Classes will be held at MDC North, SACS limits the number of these offerings on our campus.

Mr. Meredith presented an *organizational chart* for Board approval. The chart was amended to read "Student Activities Committee", and was *approved* as amended.

Regarding personnel, Mr. Meredith reported on the nine new faculty members. He said that it was the best group he had ever recruited. After being asked if this was a lot of turnover, he admitted that yes, it was considerable, and went on to explain that two or three had left at the last minute. He pointed out that three teachers from last year were not offered contracts and were intentionally replaced.

Regarding charter school compliance, the compliance review report was received at the end of the school year, and contained only one area to be addressed.

Curriculum Coordinator's Report: Kay Brown gave a comprehensive report on student achievement on both the ACT and SAT. She made the following conclusions from the statistics offered: the scores are well above state

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average, more students are taking the tests and more are doing better, college acceptances are better this year than last, and that students may take the ACT instead of the FCAT.

This report gave rise to discussion. Dr. Lutton stated that an exit study would be beneficial. We have experienced attrition to new schools, however, competition is healthy. Alison Harke spoke about specialization that would require a strategic change, wherein we would attract the best students in a particular area. Dr. Lutton pointed out that as academics are strong and keep improving, people will come, and we can't be impatient. Jim McCoy emphasized the need for strategic planning, and wondered if a special meeting or workshop was called for. Dennis Kleinman stated that we have to "drive the product and market it". Ellen Bonet emphasized the importance of getting our information out to all, especially Miami Shores constituents.

Audit: The Chair introduced Regino Rodriguez, and Mr. Rodriguez introduced his staff, Rick Kenny (senior staff for field work testing) and Jose Iglesias. Mr. Rodriguez discussed some particular sections of the audit. (pages 6,8 &9 were given particular attention) Mr. Rodriguez stated that generally, we have an excess of revenues over expenses, and that we have a clean management letter, so no issues will be outlined in the formal communication from the auditors. A few changes to pages 22 & 24 were incorporated. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the audit draft with the discussed changes.

Wellness Plan: Having previously distributed the proposed 2009-10 Wellness Plan for the School, Kay Brown read aloud the section that proposed a change required by the Safe Routes to School program. This change, and the plan proposed, were approved by a motion made by D. Kleinman, seconded by Hunt Davis, and passed unanimously.

Capital Outlay Plan: After review of this draft plan, it was suggested that we check all of the boxes for possible expenditure types to allow for eventualities, and that E. D'An and Irene Fajardo, Treasurer, review the plan together before submission. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the plan as amended and reviewed.

Fundraising and Marketing: D. Kleinman pointed out that the first meeting of this Committee will be held on 8/26 at 8AM and that all were invited. Suggestions were heard about having a presence and giveaways at Cushman's High School Fair, as well as at the Second Avenue grand opening on October 2nd.

PTSA: Ellen Bonet reported that the Welcome Back Faculty luncheon will be held tomorrow, and that PTSA is selling new PE uniform tops that have been suggested by students and parents and can be worn under regular uniform shirts.

New Accountability Standards: Kay Brown distributed "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" which incorporate new legislation for grading Florida high schools. Beginning this year, only half of a high school's grade will be based on FCAT scores; the other half of the score will be based on factors such as graduation rate, performance on advanced courses, SAT/ACT, and "standardized end-of-course assessments".

Next meeting, new time for monthly meetings: The next Board meeting will be held on September 17, 2009 at **5:30 PM** to better accommodate some members' schedules.

Alice Burch, Secretary