

CITY ON A HILL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
May 9, 2011
At City on a Hill Charter Public School, 58 Circuit St, Roxbury

Board of Trustees

Present: Erica Brown, Cara Candal, Michelle Dipp, Michael Grossman, Ben Lummis, Robert Mazzarella, Aretha Miller, Kevin Mohan, Ginger Parker, Michael Rosen, Lori Stevens, Ryan Thornton, and Kim Wechtenhiser,

Absent: Lee Delaney

Guests: Paul Hays, Christine Bullard, Katie Kline, Brooke Fincke, Patrick Foley, Cristin Berry, Wanda Nascimento, Robert Dawson, Lauren Thompson, Sonya Pratt

Board Updates and Votes

Chairman Robert Mazzarella called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Mr. Mazzarella thanked the community for their time and efforts during the year.

Mr. Mazzarella referenced an article about Brockton Public Schools about non-compliance with CORI checks. He checked with Executive Director Erica Brown to be sure CoaH is doing everything we can to ensure we are not in the news for CORI violations.

Mr. Mazzarella informed the board that Ms. Brown would be distributing an electronic survey to secure board meeting dates for 2011-2012.

Mr. Mazzarella has conferred with several other board members about the High Bar system, and came to the conclusion that it was not a very strong system. Mr. Mazzarella suggested not renewing for the year.

Moved to approve the minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting held in April 2011. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Strategic Planning Report

Kevin Mohan and Ms. Brown presented the Replication Update. Ms. Brown reminded the board of the two resolutions that were approved at the last board meeting: applying for a second school and the foundation transfer of funds to add FTE's to support the application. Ms. Brown reviewed the timeline for the application process. As meetings come up regarding replication, she will invite specific board members to follow up. Ms. Brown reiterated the potential barriers presented at the April 2011 board meeting to check in and continue moving forward until a barrier becomes a "show stopper".

Trustees Report

Trustee Lori Stevens presented the Trustees Committee Report. Ms. Stevens emphasized the importance of recruiting new members to dovetail with the replication process.

Development Report

Trustee Michelle Dipp presented the Development Report. In 2011, the Gala raised \$151,365. She noted that the actual donations reflect a trend of a decline in large corporate sponsors, and an increase in small individual donations. Ms. Dipp asked for feedback about the location and length and content of program, as well as the auction. Ms. Bullard added that some numbers are updated on the tracker including the expense total is now \$53,875 so we are at net \$97,390. Ms. Bullard noted 100% board participation in the gala.

Academic Excellence: School Performance Report

Trustee Aretha Miller presented the School Performance Report. They looked at aligning the school calendar to the accountability plan. The committee discussed the NEASC response. Ms. Miller said that they approved the changes to the science fair that would allow students to demonstrate a deep understanding of the scientific message and apply concepts rather than regurgitate information.

Other Business: School Council Presentation

Patrick Foley presented the School Council perspective that from the faculty point of view that teachers are excited about replication and are in agreement in vice principals being trained during the school year.

Finance Report

Treasurer Ryan Thornton presented the Finance Report. Mr. Thornton started by presenting information about the school's current re-financing situation. First Republic is presenting a competitive bid, and Boston Private has substantially reduced the terms of their offer. Mr. Thornton said he will keep the board informed with fresh information for the July retreat.

The school's cash position 9 months through the year is up over \$93,000 than last year at this time. Mr. Thornton drew attention to line 2310; management and the finance committee has made a recommendation to release the \$43,000 tuition reserve. Mr. Thornton summarized management's recommendation to decrease foundation support of the school by \$150,000.

On the Foundation balance sheet, Mr. Thornton noted that \$500,000 or 8% of the debt has been paid off in the last 12 months. Regarding the FY12 school budget, Mr. Thornton summarized that nothing significant has changed since the April draft. Ms. Brown noted that the vote is only on the FY12 budget, not FY13 or 14 as neither are balanced budget and are there only for discussion purposes only (if everyone's wish list was funded). Mr. Thornton noted that the foundation budget would be voted on later in the summer in a conference call vote.

The motion to approve the school's FY12 budget was moved, seconded and carried unanimously.

Ms. Brown explained that in a refinance, the board must take steps to empower the joint school and foundation finance committee to refinance, and specific people to negotiate and to be a signatory on behalf of the board of trustees. The motion was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Ms. Brown then asked the board to vote to grant the finance committee power to decide what to do with surplus money if the refinance results in a surplus. Mr. Mazzarella explained that the spending decisions might need to be made before the board comes back in session. The motion was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Mazzarella moved to adjourn the meeting and go to executive session where there would be no votes, but contracts would be discussed and the Principal and Executive Director would be asked to stay. Role was called and all members spoke yes. The Board would not readjourn in public session.