

Schoolcraft Learning Community
School Board Meeting
03-18-03, Paris, 6:00 PM

Attendance

Kent Nerburn Ken Grantier Kris Kolar
 Melanie Nelson Hilary Phukan Frank Moe
 Mark Shanfeld Lisa Graefe

Staff Present: Rita Fauchald, Gerry Hoyum, Barb Houg, Shar Paquette

Guests Present: Hanni Nabahe, Sabrina Erickson, Jon Crisman, Dawn Mason, Martin Graefe, Vicki Ross-Rhoades

Opening - 8th Grade Video

Request to remove items from the consent agenda - none made

Melanie Nelson moved, Lisa Graefe seconded to approve the changes in the agenda.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from January 21, February 18, and February 26, 2003
2. Current Bills and Checks

Kris Kolar moved, Ken Grantier seconded to approve consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

1. Kent Nerburn opened with a narrative of how the board came to its decision regarding our board composition.
2. Board review of parent responses
3. Community Comments regarding board composition
 - a. Jon Crisman: stated concerns about the board's distraction with this issue - and the frustration with the original order of the agenda - making it seem like parental input was not going to be considered.
 - b. Martine Graefe: made a brief statement supporting his letter.
 - c. Hanni Nabahe: wonders how much the teachers/parents understand about the function of the board, as well as making sure that teachers remain focused on teaching our children.
 - d. Sabrina Erickson: asked if the teachers were in favor of a teacher majority. Ken Grantier answered that in a teacher survey there was 9:1 in favor of teacher majority - also 9:1 regarding willingness to serve.
 - e. Jon Crisman - how do we know the teachers are incapable of serving on the board?
 - f. Kent Nerburn assured Jon that we are not diminishing the abilities of the teachers to serve.
 - g. Martin Graefe - stressed the outside influence necessity on our board - the board does not make day-to-day decisions
 - h. Vicki Ross-Rhoades - stressed any nominees to be fully informed regarding the responsibilities of the board
 - i. Frank Moe - addressed school quality and effective learning - discussed looking at community interface, fiscal solvency, and broad mission of the school. Community members bring much to the board with our broad range of experiences that can bring much benefit to our board and the school. Teachers and Scott have complete control over the curriculum and the learning environment - aside from our contracting with ELOB. We are in transition and now need management energy instead of solely founder energy.
 - j. Kris Kolar - trusts the teachers to teach - the board is moving away from the day-to-day activities.
 - k. Dawn Mason - requested the board to reconsider the waiver request.
 - l. Kent Nerburn apologized for the board's lack of process and welcomed and thanked the guests for their input - but stated that we need to move forward.
 - m. Lisa Graefe - expressed the need to create dialogues with everyone in the community.
 - n. Sabrina Erickson - do we really feel that the waiver process has been handled the right way? Seems like the parent input was an after thought.
 - o. Jon Crisman - enrolled children here because Schoolcraft is a completely different type of school - he is delighted with teacher empowerment - feels that we are cutting the "experiment" short by disallowing a teacher majority on the board. An interim board may be ok - but wants the teachers to run the school.
 - p. Vicki Ross-Rhoades - we shouldn't assume the teachers don't feel empowered...we need to hear from them. The board is not perfect - parents have the responsibility to stay informed. The board has done a great job!
 - q. Martin Graefe - if teachers didn't feel empowered - they would probably be here tonight - the board does need to have better communication to the community as a whole - we need to look at the policies regarding the release of addresses to people who ask.
 - r. Hanni Nabahe - loves the SLC philosophy and community feeling! The board is learning from its experiences - it is not us vs. you - it is a work in progress. Thank you for the work you do. Let's move forward to a place we can all work together.
 - s. Kent Nerburn closed with an apology to the parents for failing on this process - please trust that we are trying to do the best we can for the school. Empowerment and communication are what we strive for.
 - t. Rita Fauchald shared her feeling of frustration because it feels like us against them and we have always been able to work together.
 - u. Barb Houg - supportive of the MACS accountability project - the charter school board roles and responsibilities workshop.
 - v. Sabrina Erickson - us vs. them set up because of the lack of responses to her questions at the last board meeting.
 - w. Dawn Mason - We all want the same thing - the best for Schoolcraft.

Kent Nerburn thanked everyone for coming and providing input to the board. The board is going to move ahead under the assumption that the issue will be revisited next year.

Ken Grantier discussed the process that helped him to offer the 4:4 option for board composition, and then did a brief overview of future "site-based" management possibilities in order to further empower teachers. This will be on the agenda, most likely next month.

Mark Shanfeld asked if it would take responsibility away from Scott - Ken Grantier responded that this would be decided upon along with Scott.

Committee Reports

1. PAC - Ken Grantier: great meeting this month - great discussion - gave away lots of money! Lots of work on by-laws. Funded Greg's 8th grade trip, 4/5 trip to Sioux City; Math Masters, recapped WinterFest.
2. Finance - Rita Fauchald: had the governor's budget and MACS legislation/laws available for those who wanted copies.

New Business

1. Charter School Board workshop - handout given to all board members - sounds excellent!

2. Election Timeline - Kent Nerburn moved that any decision regarding board composition and election procedures that is made, be binding for this year only, subject to be revisited next year. Ken Grantier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

a. Positions available - Frank Moe moved that we implement a 4community members/4 teacher board for this year. Ken Grantier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

i. Frank Moe stated that the teachers should decide which teacher will serve the one year term - Melanie Nelson added she would like it to be included on the ballot.

1. Ken Grantier moved that the three teacher spots are put on the ballot with no distinction between the one and two year terms - which will be decided with the person receiving the fewest amount of votes of the top three sitting for the one year term. Mark Shanfeld seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Voting process/who/how: discussion ensued regarding the run-off possibility. Mark Shanfeld moved that the top majority vote getters be elected. If there is not a majority of votes for any position, there shall be a run-off for that number of positions plus one candidate with the next highest number of votes. In the event that the next highest number of votes is held by more than one person, all candidates holding that number of votes will be included in the run-off. Melanie Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Ken Grantier moved that ballots will go out to all parents/guardians/staff/board members in the current Schoolcraft database, and if eligible voters are inadvertently missed, they can request a ballot with a maximum of one vote per person. Melanic Nelson seconded. Motion carried. Kent Nerburn voted nay.

d. Lisa Graefe moved to approve the proposed election timeline. Mark Shafeld seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Kent Nerburn moved that the nominating committee be comprised of those board members not currently up for re-election. Their responsibilities will be to collect, compile, and distribute the nomination forms to all eligible voters and oversee the election process. The copies of the nomination forms will be sent out as received. Ken Grantier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

f. Board nomination form: discussion/changes were suggested. Ken Grantier moved to accept the nomination form with the suggested changes. Mark Shanfeld seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

g. Frank Moe moved that the nominating committee be responsible for sending out the Board member agreement, along with a cover letter describing the election process, the election timeline and the nomination form following the already approved election timeline. Mark Shanfeld seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. 2003-06 Lease agreement - Rita: Mark Shanfeld moved to accept the lease agreement as proposed: Ken Grantier seconded. Motion carried, with one abstention - Lisa Graefe.

4. Grant Applications approval - Barb Houg and Lisa Graefe

a. CAPP grant - Barb Houg - Melanie Nelson moved to support Barb's pursuing this grant. Frank Moe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Region 2 arts council grant "Building Bridges" (Lisa Robinson, Karen Bradley, Carla Patch) - Mark Shanfeld moved that we approve pursuing of this grant: Ken Grantier seconded. Motion carried with one abstention -Frank Moe

c. FLAP grant is alive - Lisa Graefe - do we want to pursue to help cover our French?- Lisa Graefe will bring this idea to the staff to see what the support level is...

Kent Nerburn moved for adjournment. Mark Shanfeld seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session