

Schoolcraft Learning Community
School Board Meeting
04-15-03, Paris, 6:00 PM

Posted but Not Formally Approved

Call to Order - Kent called the meeting to order.

Attendance

_X_Kent Nerburn _X_Ken Grantier _X_Kris Kolar
_A_Melanie Nelson _X_Hilary Phukan _X_Frank Moe
_X_Mark Shanfeld _X_Lisa Graefe

Guests present: Dawn Mason, Jon Crisman, Tammy Rogers, Sabrina Erickson, Clancy Erickson, Vicki Ross-Rhoades

Staff Present: Rita Fauchald, Gerry Hoyum, Scott Anderson, Shar Paquette,

Opening - Scott shared a picture of one of our students with a resident of Goldpine Home for the opening. He then went over a couple of changes to the agenda.

Question/Comments - 5 minutes each - 30 minutes total

Vicki Ross-Rhoades - says thank you to the board for all their hard work.

Dawn Mason suggested we may want to include the word change under 2.03 instead of increase in the proposed by-laws. It was answered that we most likely would not want to have less than 5 members, and for five we are covered.

Kent Nerburn briefly addressed some of the issues raised in the parent concern letter. Kent stated that he has written a letter to all staff requesting honest feedback regarding the teacher majority and the waiver request. If the state either rejects the waiver request, or the staff overwhelmingly want a teacher majority, Kent stated that he would resign his position on the board and give his position to the teacher with the next highest number of votes.

Sabrina Erickson - asked whether the parents will get to see the waiver application as of the date it is sent. The answer was affirmative. What is the date of the charter that was granted to Schoolcraft? July 1, 2000 was when we became a legal entity. Will the waiver go through the charter school advisory committee (as it supposedly disbands this summer)? The answer was affirmative.

Frank Moe - questioned the viability of Kent's offer to resign his seat. The board would decide what would happen to his seat if Kent chose to resign.

Kent Nerburn stated that he wanted to establish intent.

Dawn Mason - stated that the board has made some mistakes, and is uncomfortable with Kent's offer to resign. Knows that the board has committed to address the waiver issue within the next year, but she is really behind following the open meeting law. Let's keep moving forward.

Jon Crisman - We almost got distracted by the waiver - my greatest concern was the lack of communication prior to the waiver application. He is OK with the board make-up for now. Let's continue to increase the level of communication.

Vicki Ross-Rhoades - has always known when the school board meeting is scheduled. Communication goes two ways.

Request to remove topic(s) from Consent Agenda - none made.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from March 18, 2003 meeting
2. Current Bills and Checks
3. Title 1 Progress read-out
4. Extra-curricular legislative update
5. Charter School partnerships

6. PAC minutes
7. National Charter Schools Week
8. 8th grade test scores
9. Working budget 2003-04
10. 2003-04 Election Update
11. Arts dinner - April 26 - reservations for MN Alliance for Arts in Education - St. Paul - Scott needs names of who is going by the 23rd.
12. 8th Grade Portfolio presentations - board members should be part of this - dates: May 5, 6, 8 Please let Scott know if you can participate
13. Article from the MSBA Journal

Lisa Graefe moved to accept the consent agenda. Hilary Phukan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

1. PAC - Hilary Phukan & Vicki Ross-Rhoades - Project Green Touch - May 3 from 10-2PM at Bemidji State Park. Summer picnics were also discussed. There will be a May mailing. Dawn Mason discussed the fundraising mailing that was mailed out to local businesses. PAC passed their by-laws!
2. Finance - Rita Fauchald - working budget - any questions?
 - a. There is still a lot of unknown information.
 - b. Rita is hoping to approve a working budget at May's meeting.
 - c. We are required to have expenditure guidelines to the state by June.
 - d. Ken Grantier, Melanie Nelson, Greg Moen, Scott Anderson, Rita Fauchald, and Vicki Ross-Rhoades are currently on the Finance committee.
 - e. Next meeting 04-23, and the Wednesday prior to each Board meeting.
 - f. Will be working on Title Program
 - g. State may utilize a 23% withholding of our funds - so we may really need to watch the budget closely.
 - h. ELOB costs are not yet finalized. Scott has been working with Jeanne and it will go before the finance committee.
 - i. Lease - additional 3 years is approved.

New Business

1. 2003-04 School calendar - first reading - will bring to the May meeting for approval
2. Region 2 Arts Council Grant - already board approved in March
3. Carol White PE Program grant application - designed to initiate, expand, or improve PE programs, including after-school programs, to help students make progress toward meeting State standards for PE. Kris Kolar moved, Lisa Graefe seconded to allow Barb Houg to pursue this grant on Schoolcraft's behalf. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Dissemination grant application - idea is for successful charter schools to share best practices with new or other charter schools. It may be very important for our entire community to have the opportunity to have the training in the Carver model, as well as the site-based management process. We also need to make sure to evaluate the process. Lisa Graefe moved to allow Barb Houg to pursue this grant on our behalf, and to include exploration on available site-based management trainings in the grant application. Ken Grantier seconded. Barb Houg encouraged community input regarding what should be included in the grant application. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Kris Kolar moved that the board instruct the director and staff to design and implement a site-based management program which empowers the teachers and staff with the program to be evaluated prior to next year's election. The director and staff involved will report back to the board with the timetable of implementation and evaluation. Frank Moe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Policies and by-laws update - Barb Houg
 - a. Will post amended by-laws 10 days prior to the May meeting to prepare for the final vote in May
 - b. Active participation occurred among parents/board/staff regarding suggested changes within the proposed by-laws.
 - c. Need a Board Policies Committee to be set up - to make the templates our own. Lisa Graefe, Ken Grantier, Dawn Mason, Barb Houg - will work on compiling a set of board policies.
7. Cathy Cravens letter - Scott: Cathy is seeking restitution for the remainder of her salary for this school year. Kris Kolar moved for the board to instruct Scott to respond to Cathy that her request for restitution is denied. Mark Shanfeld seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Parent concern letter - under legal counsel advisement - Scott asked that the board authorize him to provide a summary in response to the letter addressed to the four signers of such letter. Policies/procedures are currently being looked at. Frank Moe moved to instruct Scott to create a summary of the board directed waiver process and send it to the four signers of the parent concern letter. Ken Grantier seconded. Motion carried. Kris Kolar stated that the summary should not be written. The letters were available at the meeting at which they were discussed,

which puts us in compliance with the open meeting law. Vote tallies: Yes - 5; No - 2 (Kris Kolar and Mark Shanfeld).

a. Postcards sent by a group of parents- Ken Grantier stated that the postcard format was a great idea to get a larger input. The postcards sent by a group of parents were designed to draw a response on one side of an issue, and were of limited use for the board. It was decided the postcards would be given to the parent group who went them.

b. Charter needs to be renewed by the end of the 3rd year. This may increase the importance of the timely submission of the waiver. Ken Grantier asked that the waiver letter and the supporting documents be approved by the board.

9. Public relations letter - Scott has been notified that several students at the Bemidji High School have been "questioned" by the BHS administration regarding their intent/interest in the charter high schools opening in the fall. There has also been information from the ISD 31 superintendent. Scott has answered the charges in the charter school fashion. Kris Kolar stated she wholeheartedly supports Scott defining this information. Kris encouraged the possibility of even more widespread publication - home with students, etc.

a. Hilary Phukan moved that the board supports Scott's position statement regarding information sent by the Bemidji school district. Lisa Graefe seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dawn Mason would like some of this information made more public - even in the newspaper - for National Charter school's week. Tammy Rogers offered that we not just refute, but to put positive info out.

Old Business - none

Kris Kolar moved to adjourn. Hilary Phukan seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Shar Paquette