

Neighborhood Charter School
Board of Directors
Meeting minutes May 14, 2008

Board Members present:: Cheryll Booth, Amy Jeffries, Kelly McNally, Keith Rouse, Terry Roth, Margaret Jones, Curtis McHardy, Tammie Mitchell, Teresa Lee, Kole Camp, Anita Downing, Steve Rothman, Dena Robinson-Christian, Shyria Coleman-Johnson, and Lesa Hope

Guests: Kathy Andrews, Billy Rosbottom, Amy Handler, Maya Jenkins, Kathryn Grogg, Elizabeth Carr, Leslie Grant, Carol Keller, Veleta Greer, Lisa Robinson, Beth Wells, and Kristian Vatalaro

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 by Cindy Cahalan.

Terry moved to approve meeting minutes from the April 15, 2008 Board Meeting, the April 24, 2008 Board Meeting, the April 28, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting and the April 30, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting. Teresa seconded. All voted to approve the minutes.

Tammie made a motion to approve the agenda. Kole seconded motion. All voted to approve the meeting agenda.

Lesla Hope thanked all board members who are rolling off the Board for their hard work and dedication to the school. She urged the Board to be positive and proactive from here on out and to respect one another and our differences.

No Public Comment.

No New Business:

Special reports:

Curtis McHardy updated the Board on the Retention Task Force. He has the list of students from 2003 to present that have left the school and is gathering phone numbers and emails and is also starting to gather data. Teresa suggested that the teachers may still have contact information for old families. Anita updated the Board on Registration. It has been completed for this year. There were a record number of applicants for Kindergarten. The waitlist numbers are as follows: K = 42, 1st = 9, 2nd = 12, 3rd = 5, 4th = 4, and 5th = 5. Anita also discussed the diversity of registered applicants by zone. There was no update on Charter Inc. because the meeting was rescheduled.

Amy Handler presented information on the Creative Movement program at the school. She thanked the Board for putting the program in the proposed budget for next year for the Kindergarten classes.

Unfinished Business:

Cindy updated the Board regarding the May 8th PTCA meeting. The slate for next year's Board was approved. New members are Tammie Mitchell, Board Chair; Beth Wells, Parent Rep; Melissa Devereaux, Parent Rep; John Wright, Parent Rep; Lisa Roberson, PTCA President; Carol Keller, Related Arts Staff Rep; and Maya Jenkins, 3rd -5th Staff Rep. The revisions to the Bylaws were also approved.

Interim Principal/Executive Director's Report

Margaret Jones presented report.

Modular Classroom: We continue to pursue a Certificate of Occupancy from the city. We have to make changes to the way the alarm system is wired.

Governor Perdue signed HB 1277. This allows staff at Georgia Charter Schools to be eligible for state benefits. Thank you to Margaret Kaiser for all her hard work on this.

Code of Conduct Review: The proposal for a due process procedure to be included with our Code of Conduct will be crafted over the summer and presented at the first Board meeting of 2008 - 09.

Margaret announced the winners of the My Neighbor the Operator Art Contest and the NCS Poetry Contest.

Margaret discussed the ITBS results and the Georgia Writing Assessment for the 3rd and 5th grades.

To date we have 9 students recommended for retention, with 2 of those students withdrawing after this year. Thirteen students from 3rd and 5th grade have registered for summer school through APS.

The new hire orientation is on May 29th. The new hire training is on July 24 - 25th. The staff retreat is at Banning Mills on July 27 - 29th. The Teacher Institute is scheduled for July 31st and Aug. 1st. Pre-planning begins Aug. 4th and the first day of school is August 11th.

Personnel Committee

Tammie presented an update for the committee. Three new Associate Teachers and one Special Education Teacher have been hired for 08-09. There is still one Special Education opening and one Associate Teacher opening that we are currently interviewing for. Tammie updated the Board on the principal search. The new search committee consists of seven people, 2 parents, 2 faculty, and 3 board members. Phone interviews have begun. Tammie also presented the budget for the Principal Search. We are under budget to date.

Finance Committee

Keith presented the proposed budget for next year. We do not know the exact per pupil allotment we will receive from APS next year. Also, APS has not posted the 2008-09 pay scales for staff. We should have these numbers by the August board meeting next school year. Therefore, the budget will need to be revisited once those numbers are in. Steve motioned to approve the proposed budget for the 2008-2009 school year. Amy seconded. All approved.

In relation to finances, Tammie, Amy and Terry will continue to discuss the verbiage of the Development of Fundraising Chair position on the Board for next school year. They will have something in writing by June 15th.

Parent and Family Involvement

End of the Year Surveys are coming in and the on-line version will be open until Friday, May 16th. The data will be compiled after that. The P and FI reviews will go out with student CRCT scores in June. Warnings about being on probation will go out then too. All volunteer hours must be logged by June 1st.

PTCA

Anita thanked Lisa Roberson for taking over the PTCA for next year.

New Business

Kathy discussed the food service contracts for next year. There is one between NCS and the Roaming Chef and one between NCS and Atlanta Charter Middle School (ACMS). Kole motioned to approve the two food service contracts with Roaming Chef and ACMS. Dena seconded the motion. All approved.

Steve motioned to move into Executive Session. Tammie seconded. All approved.

Personnel matters were discussed.

Cheryll made a motion to move out of Executive Session. Amy seconded. All approved.

Terry made a motion to approve 6 staff contracts. Amy seconded. All approved.

Announcements were read.

Terry motioned to adjourn meeting. Amy seconded motion. All voted approval. Cindy Cahalen adjourned the meeting at 10:03.